June

Yaoi ヤオイ Manga

Aki Senoo
When the Heaven's Smile
空から降るもの
OAKLA PUBLISHING
June

When the Heavens Smile

空から降るもの

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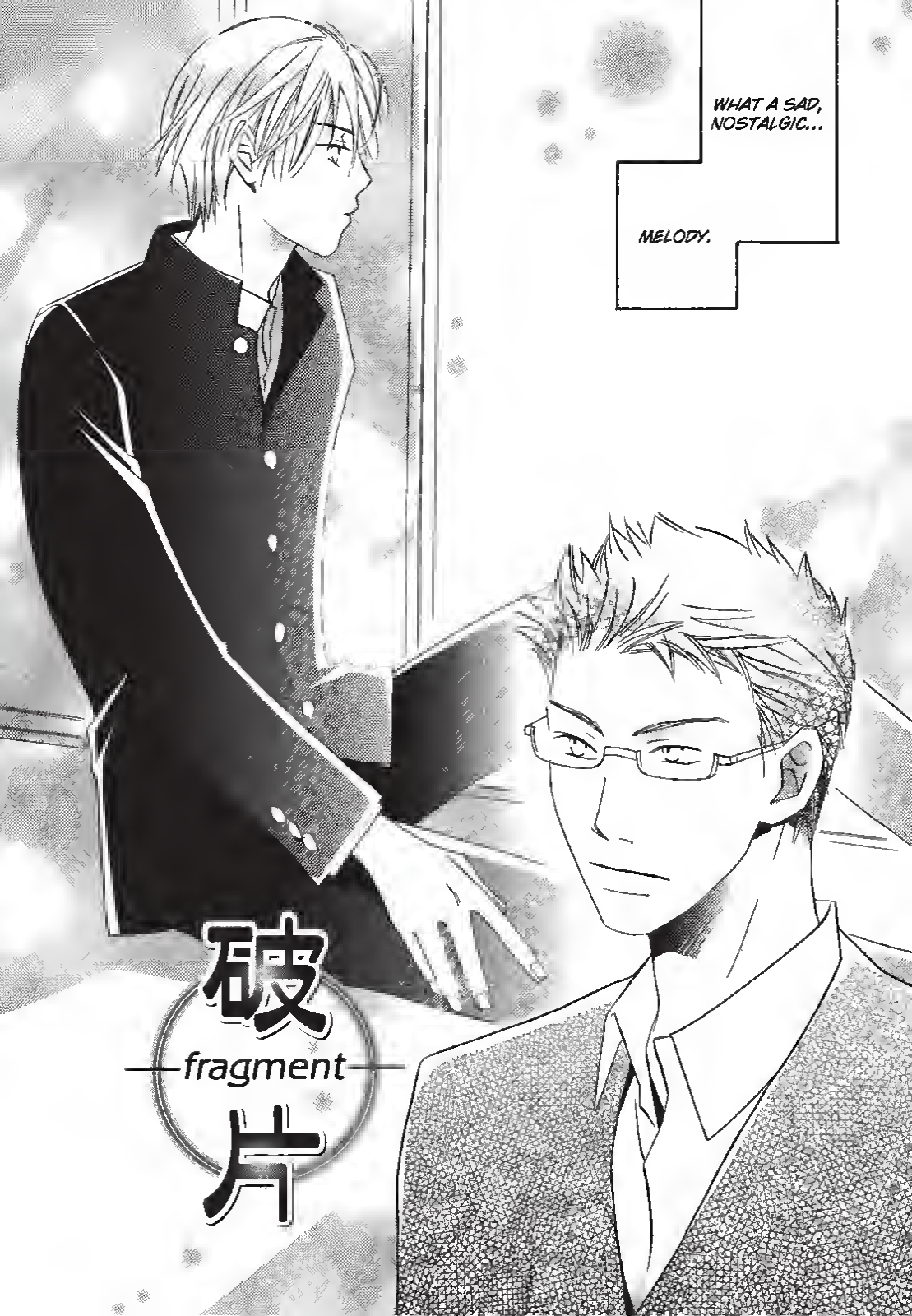
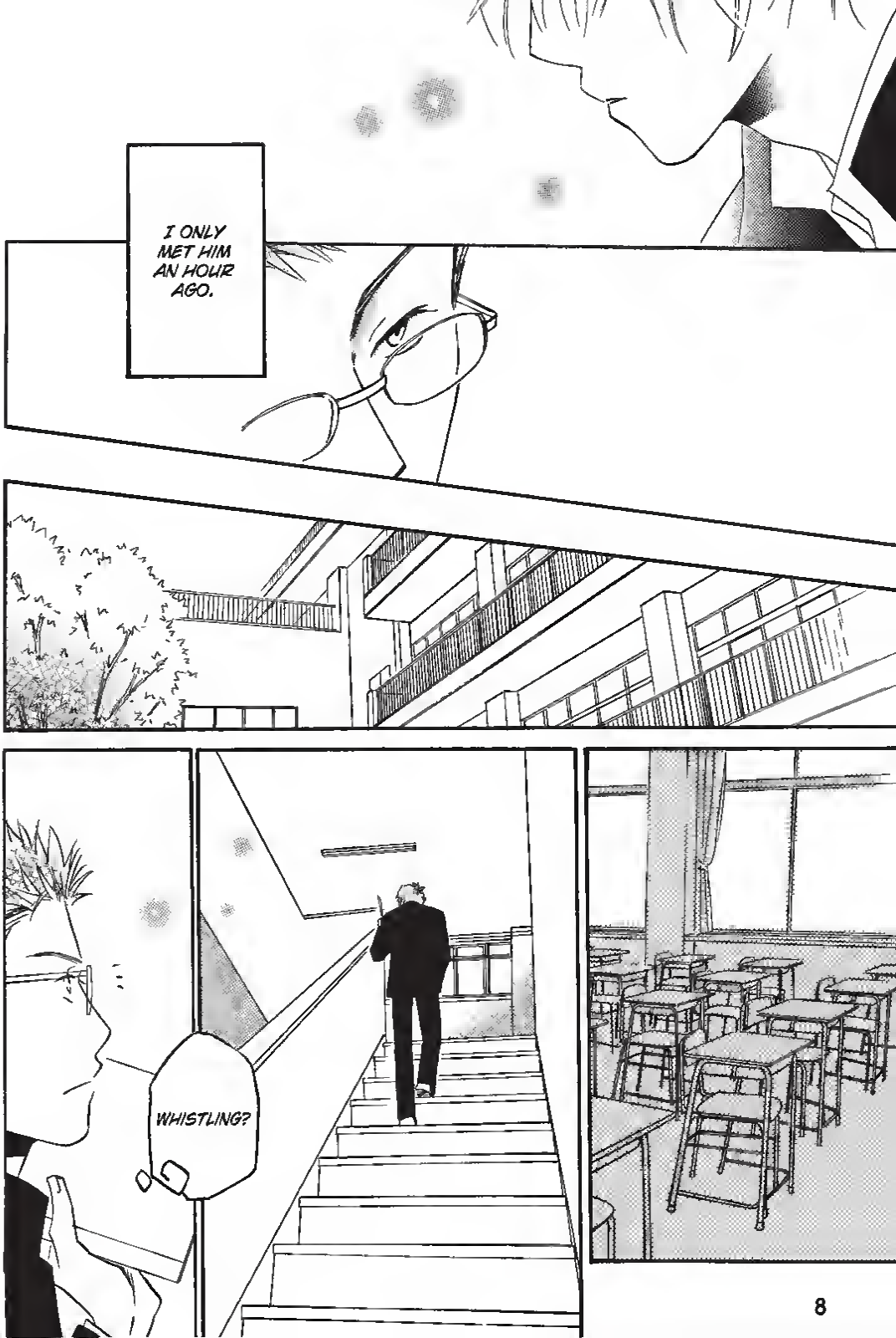
I CAN HEAR WHISTLING...
FROM UPSTAIRS.
OH, WELL...
THUMP
ドサッ
MAN... NOTHING HERE, EITHER.
HM, DÉJÀ VU.
IT'S A HIGH, CLEAR SOUND.
...WAIT. OF COURSE.
CREAK
カチャ


WHAT A SAD, NOSTALGIC...
MELODY.
破
fragment
片

THANKS.
WANT SOME? IT'S TEA
YOU HAVE THE WINDOW OPEN EVEN THOUGH IT'S *THIS* COLD OUT?
SLIDE
IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
SINCE MY PARENTS ARE LATE, THIS IS ALL I HAVE.
CHUG CHUG CHUG
AT LEAST USE A CUP...
IT'S OKAY.
I ALREADY HAVE IT MEMORIZED. LISTEN.


I ONLY MET HIM AN HOUR AGO.
WHISTLING?

HE'S GOOD...
I KNOW THIS TUNE...
IT'S THAT, RIGHT...?
BUT WHY DOES HE KEEP REPEATING THE SAME PHRASE?
1 - 5
...IT'S VEERING OFF THE MELODY.
SLUMP
...
IT'S GETTING MORE AND MORE OFF...
SLIDE
TURN
...WHAT KIND OF SONG IS THIS...?!
HOLD IT!
ARE YOU WHISTLING "SCARBOROUGH FAIR" OR NOT?

ビクッ
STARTLED
THIS ISN'T ANY OF MY BUSINESS, BUT I COULDN'T TAKE LISTENING TO IT! PARTWAY THROUGH YOUR MELODY, IT WENT COMPLETELY OFF!
IT GOES HM...HM HM...HM...HM HM HM HM...
LIKE THAT!!
HUH?
...
ドキドキ
DOKI DOKI
HUH?
WELL, SEE YA. THAT'S IT.
JUMP
ホッ
HEY, WAI--
YOU KNOW THAT SONG?
WAIT!
DASH
ばたばた

SNORT
CAN'T YOU GIVE ME THE TITLE IN JAPANESE?
"ARE YOU GOING TO SCARBOROUGH FAIR."
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW IT?
THE FIRST HALF YOU WERE REPEATING WAS "SCARBOROUGH FAIR."
WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN.
MMPH!
I AM TELLING YOU!
"SCAR-BOROUGH FAIR."
I WONDER IF THEY'D KNOW IT AT THE STORE...
HMM...
YOU'RE GOING TO BUY IT?
NO, RENT.
IT'S BEEN WEIRD HAVING IT IN MY HEAD ALL DAY WITHOUT KNOWING THE SECOND HALF.
SO, YOU WERE MAKING IT UP...
YEAH.
WELL, YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT IT.
HMPH!
WHO ASKED YOU?!

BYE!
HEY, FIRST YEAR...
HUH? AREN'T YOU...
I'M A SECOND YEAR. CAN'T YOU TELL?
DOES THAT SONG MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU?
WHAT?
...NOT REALLY, SEMPAI. I WAS JUST CLEARING MY HEAD.
HMPH! WHY ARE YOU IN THE FRESHMAN WING?
I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER.
LAST YEAR, HE MOVED OUT TO LIVE ON HIS OWN.
WHOA! AWKWARD...
...WHAT THE HELL?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
THAT SONG WAS ON ONE OF THE CDS HE LEFT BEHIND.
GRIP
HEY SEMPAI, CAN I COME OVER TODAY?
180 DEGREES!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO.

THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE GATE.
AH,
I DON'T HAVE MY STUFF.
THAT'S FINE.
I CAN'T GO 'TIL AFTER I TAKE THIS TO THE SCIENCE PREP ROOM, ANYWAY.
THE PREP ROOMS ARE IN THE FRESHMAN WING!
...
HOW DID IT END UP LIKE THIS?
WHO KNOWS.
OH, WELL.
IS YOUR PLACE FAR?
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL GET THERE BEFORE DARK.
IS IT OUT IN THE COUNTRY OR SOME-THING?!

♪
YOU'RE OFF AGAIN. STOP THAT!
TCH!
YOU KNOW, YOUR MOUTH IS A LOT WORSE THAN YOUR FACE.
IF YOU'D JUST SHUT UP, YOU'D LOOK LIKE...
A NICE GUY?
...NO, NOT AT ALL.
I WAS MISTAKEN
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH SPEAKING THE TRUTH.
OH, WELL.
HEY, LET'S HARMONIZE!
COMPLETELY RECOVERED!
ASK ME AFTER YOU KNOW THE WHOLE SONG.
IF YOU SAY SO.

I'M SURE WE CAN WORK IT OUT IF WE JUST START WHISTLING.
NO.
CAN YOU NOT WHISTLE?
DAMN.
FLINCH
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?!
だははは
HAHAHAHAHA
WHY NOT?
WHAT, REALLY?! THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T?
FINE, I'M LEAVING YOU BEHIND.
HEE HEE, HILARIOUS.
IT'S NOT WRONG, IT'S JUST FUNNY--
SNORT
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

I TOOK HIM TO MY PLACE WITHOUT EVEN ASKING HIS NAME.
WE WERE CONNECTED BY FRAGMENTS OF A SONG.
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS FAR.
HEY, IT WAS CLOSE
ONLY A TEN-MINUTE WALK.
SHUT UP...
YOU REALLY ARE HONEST?
MAN!
FOR THAT REASON ALONE,
WE PLAYED THE SONG OVER...
"ARE YOU GOING TO SCARBOROUGH FAIR?" HOW WEIRD.

CREAK
AND OVER...
THANKS FOR THIS. SEE YOU LATER.
...SURE.

WHAT AM I DOING?
I BET TOMORROW IT'LL BE LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
JUST A CHANCE ENCOUNTER.
PTU..
...
WHY CAN'T I MAKE A SOUND?
NOTHING MORE.
THAT'S IT?

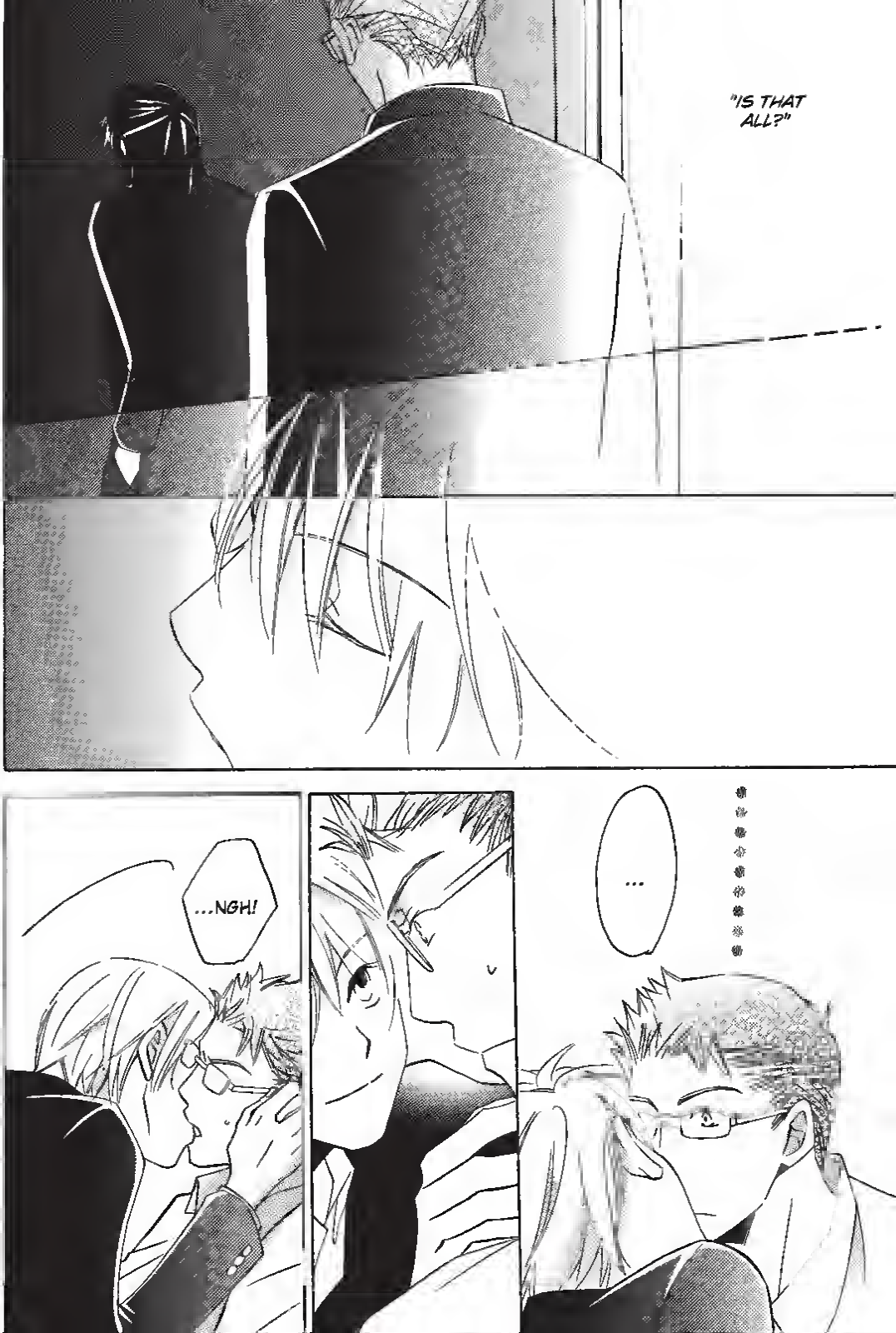
THAT'S IT.
I NEVER EVEN ASKED HIS NAME. I DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE HIM AGAIN.
THE END.
HA HA HA...
RIGHT. THIS ISN'T A BOY'S SCHOOL, AFTER ALL.
IF IT WAS A CUTE *GIRL* WHISTLING, EVEN I WOULD TRY TO MAKE A MOVE.
BUT...
YOU'D BE AN IDIOT NOT TO ASK A GIRL'S NAME.
HEE HEE...
DO CUTE GIRLS EVEN WHISTLE?
WHO KNOWS?
...SAITOU-KUN?
YES, YAMAGUCHI-KUN?

DOESN'T THAT SOUND KIND OF *DIRTY*?
WHACK
NYA HA HA HA
にゃはは
OW!
SO, *THAT'S* WHY THIS FIRST YEAR'S BEEN HANGING AROUND?
YES, THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR.
OW!
IT'S TSUKASA MINADZUKI!
NOW THAT YOU KNOW MY NAME, USE IT.
AND BESIDES, SEMPAI...
THAT HURT?
WHAT?
YES, I REALLY DID.
WE HADN'T TALKED SINCE THEN, AFTER ALL.
I DID SAY "SEE YOU LATER"
YOU'RE COLD...
DID YOU *REALLY* THINK I'D NEVER TRY TO SEE YOU AGAIN?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO APPROACHED *ME* FIRST.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TOTALLY STRANGE, BUT YOU TURNED OUT TO BE NICE. AND THEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE RUDE AND YOU TURNED OUT TO BE FINE.
THIS FEELS LIKE RELATIONSHIP ADVICE TIME.
HEH HEH
...
OH?
YOU WERE NICE?
BUT NOW IT'S LIKE...

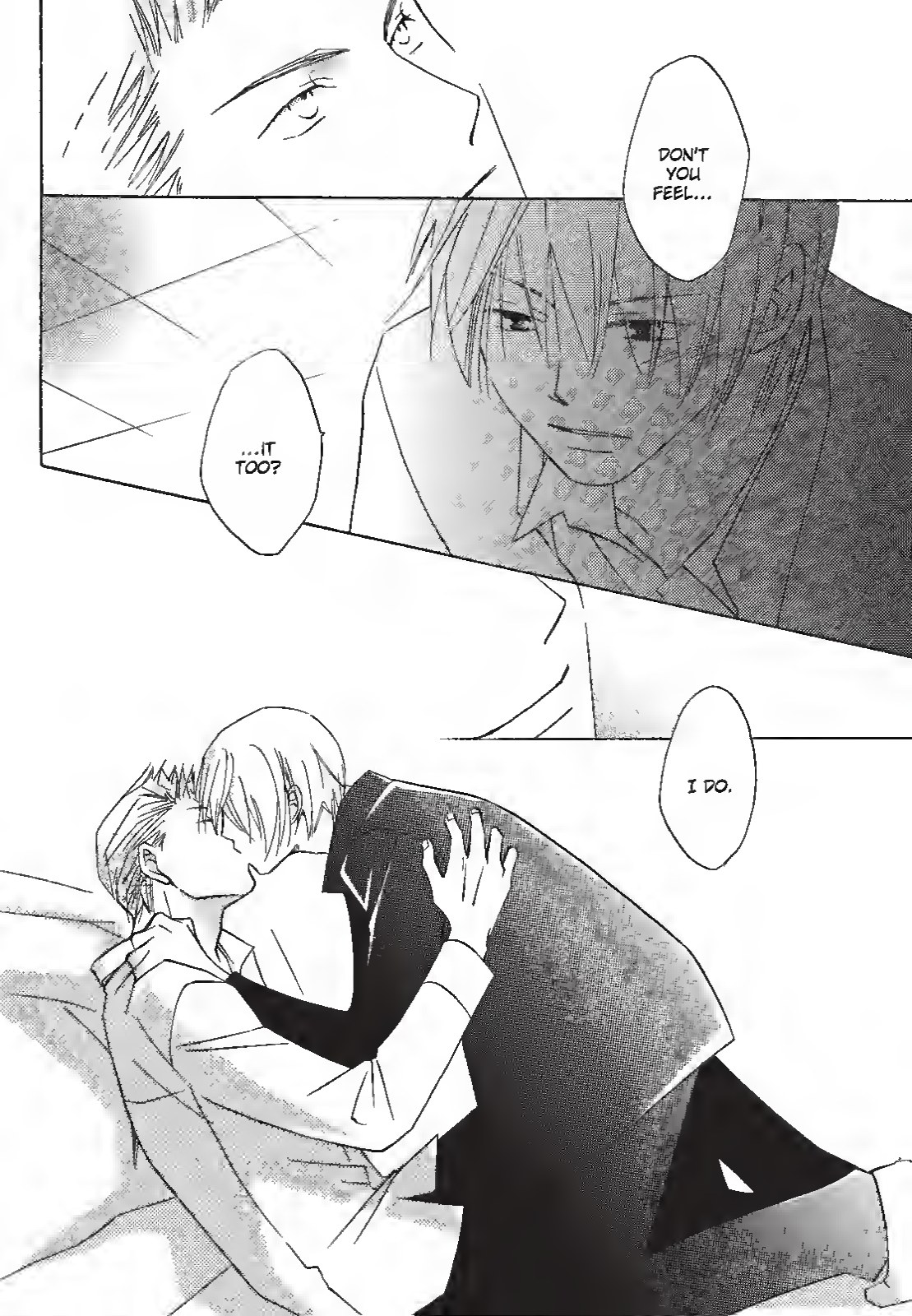
I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR A YEAR AND A HALF AND I STILL DON'T GET HIM...
WELL... IT'S JUST 'CAUSE I'M SUCH A GOOD PERSON.
I'M NOT BAD LIKE YAMAGUCHI-KUN.
HEH
LIKE ME, FOR INSTANCE?
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD UNDERSTAND SAITOU JUST BY WATCHING HIM FOR A WEEK?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO AGREE WITH YOU?
NOW THIS REALLY SOUNDS LIKE LOVE ADVICE.
SEE?
...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, YOU KNOW?
...I WAS TRICKED.
MAN...
I'M NOT BAD, I'M NORMAL
...
WELL, THAT CAN'T BE TRUE WHEN YOU SAY IT YOURSELF.
ハハハ
BUT HE IS A GOOD PERSON.
WHAT WILL HE SAY TO THAT?

HUH?
AHA!
ARE YOU JEALOUS-?
SOMEHOW...
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF.
SEE YA, SAITOU-SEMPAI.
PAT
PAT
EH?
AH?
HAPPY BLUSH
←SECOND YEAR WING
FRESHMAN WING→
I'LL...
I'LL BE BACK!

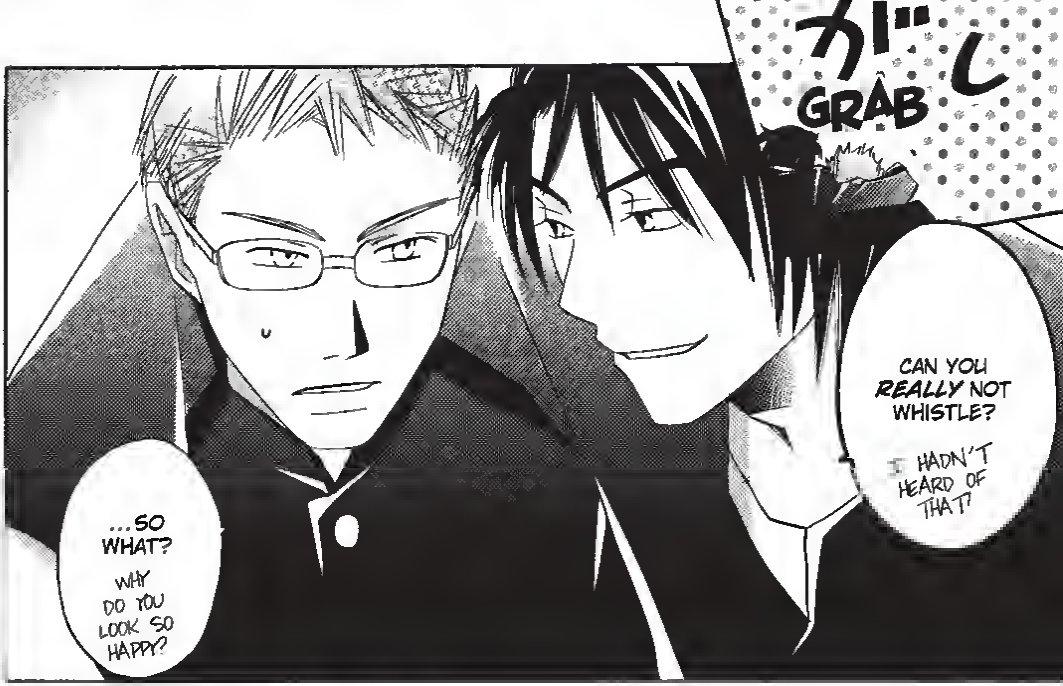
A-HA...
WHAT?
HE CAN BE CUTE SOMETIMES.
HEH!
...YEAH, HE REALLY CAN.
I GUESS...
HOW'D YOU GET SO ATTACHED TO HIM?
YOU'VE EVEN GOTTEN NICE.
WHO KNOWS?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN NICE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GETTING TRICKED?
SO YOU SAY...
MATH.
UGH.
I'M SLEEPY ALREADY.
キーン コーン
KING KONG
カーン コーン
KANG KING KONG
CUT IT OUT.
HM?
WHAT DO WE HAVE NEXT?
THE BELL...


"IS THAT ALL?"
...
...NGH!

HEY!
MY GLASSES ARE GONE...
WHAT THE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...WELL,
I'M JUST, YOU KNOW...
HUH?
GIVE THEM BACK! YOU'LL BREAK THEM
IT'S LIKE A SPONTA-NEOUS RESPONSE.
LIKE A WHAT?
AN IMPULSE.


DON'T YOU FEEL...
...IT TOO?
I DO.

...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT? YOU SAY SOMETHING?
OH, NOTHING.
HMM...
BY THE WAY, SAITOU...


GRAB
CAN YOU REALLY NOT WHISTLE?
I HADN'T HEARD OF THAT!
...SO WHAT?
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY?

WHISTLE
ANYWAY...
WE SHOULD GO TO MIYAJO'S MIXER.
I'M SURE EVEN A GUY WHO CAN'T WHISTLE CAN FIND AT LEAST ONE GIRL.

DAMN YOU!
IT'S SHOCKING!
DO YOU FEEL INCOMPLETE?
HEH

KANG KONG
KING KONG
I'M NOT GOING.

KING KONG キーン コーン
"DOES THAT SONG MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU?"
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?"
... HMM...
I DON'T THINK...
AM I REALLY OKAY?
...IT'S NOT FUNNY.
...I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET IT.

破片—fragment—◎END

ABSOLUTE CONDITION

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE WE CHANGED SEATS.
NOW IT'S IN MY SIGHTS, WHETHER I WANT TO SEE IT OR NOT.
WHY...
DIDN'T I NOTICE BEFORE...?
OR RATHER, WHY
DOES IT HAVE TO BE A GUY...?
...EEK!
JUMP

FWAP
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, KUSAKA-
FWAP
STARE
HUH?
SWEAT SWEAT
SCRAPE
THEY DIDN'T HAVE AN EGG SANDWICH SO WE GOT THE NEXT BEST THING.
SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG.
GASP
DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO GET OGATA MAD AT YOU?
WHOA!
WHAT WERE YOU PARA-LYZED?
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT ALL AFTER-NOON
SIGH...
S-SAVED...
THANKS FOR THE BREAD.
AHH..
ISN'T THAT BAD NEWS?
POP
DID HE KNOW I WAS WATCHING HIM?
IS HE MAD NOW?
AND I COULDN'T PULL AWAY...
...NO. JUST OUR EYES MET...

NOT THAT! DON'T YOU KNOW, KUSAKA?
OGATA'S GAY.
IF YOU MEET HIS EYES, YOU COULD TURN TO STONE-
COME ON, YOU KNOW.
HEH HEH.
HOW SO?
?
WILL HE HIT ME?
BUT IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, YOU'RE GONNA GET EATEN.
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW HIS TYPE,
MUNCH MUNCH
BE CAREFUL...
BUT THE RUMOR IS HE LOVES CUTE BOYS LIKE YOU--
SCARY, HUH?
WELL, WHO KNOWS?
HUH? LIKE ME?
HUH?! REALLY?!
キーン KING
コーン KONG
I ATE TOO SLOWLY...
WHOA...
CRAP, IS IT TIME TO GO?
CHEMISTRY'S NEXT?
...
REALLY ...?
カ！ン
コ KANG
ン KONG
キ KING
I BURNED MY LAB COAT LAST WEEK.
CAN I BORROW SOMEONE'S?
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!

...
OGATA,
UM....
...IT'S ABOUT TIME.
I WAS GETTING TIRED OF YOU SITTING AND WATCHING.
HE FOUND ME OUT.
WHERE ARE OGATA AND KUSAKA?
DID THEY LEAVE EARLY?
DON'T KNOW, HAVEN'T SEEN 'EM.
...IT CAN'T BE...
NO WAY.
...NGH.

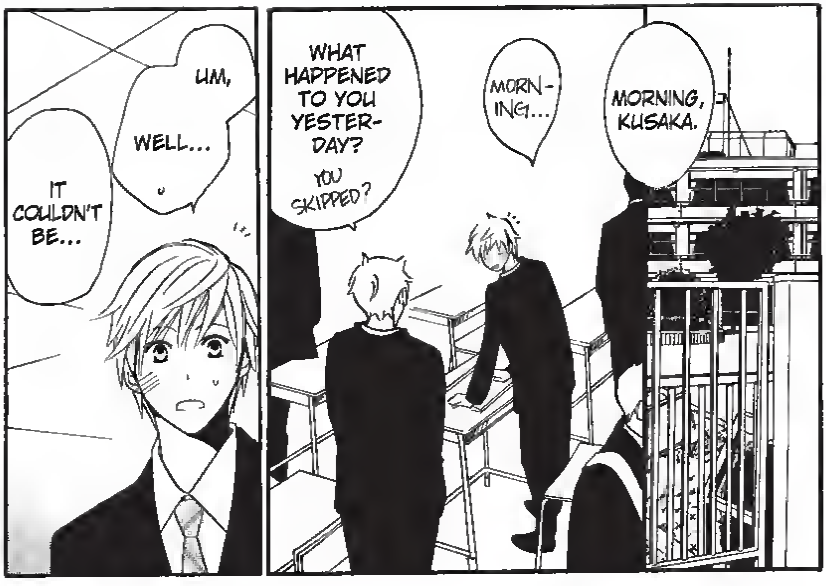
STOP...
OGATA... WAIT...
HAVE YOU EVER DONE IT WITH A GUY?
IF I HAVEN'T...
...DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN'T...?

NAH.
...NGH,
OGATA... NO.
C'MON.
NO, I MEAN...
I JUST...
CAN'T SEE...
SEE WHAT?
...LIKE THIS!

...IT'S HARDER TO DO IT THIS WAY.
THIS IS FINE.
KEEP GOING.
IS IT TOO TIGHT?
IT'S FINE.
...ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU SAY SO.
AH!
AHH...!

KUSAKA.
OH,
THANKS.
...
OW...
...SORRY. I LEFT A MARK.
OH...
SO YOU DID.
SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.

SHOVE
AH!
IT'S THE IDEAL PLACEMENT. SIZE, COLOR... IT'S PERFECT.
WHAT?
YOUR MOLE
HUH?


UM, WELL...
IT COULDN'T BE...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU YESTERDAY?
YOU SKIPPED?
MORN-ING!...
MORNING, KUSAKA.

...
YOU'RE SO OBVIOUS.
HUH?!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH OGATA?
OH, THERE HE IS.
かぁっ
BLUSH
GOT A MINUTE, KUSAKA?
I WONDER IF HE GOT EATEN...
YO
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LOOKS LIKE IT...
HUH?!
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
I REALLY CAN'T BE WITH YOU.
...!

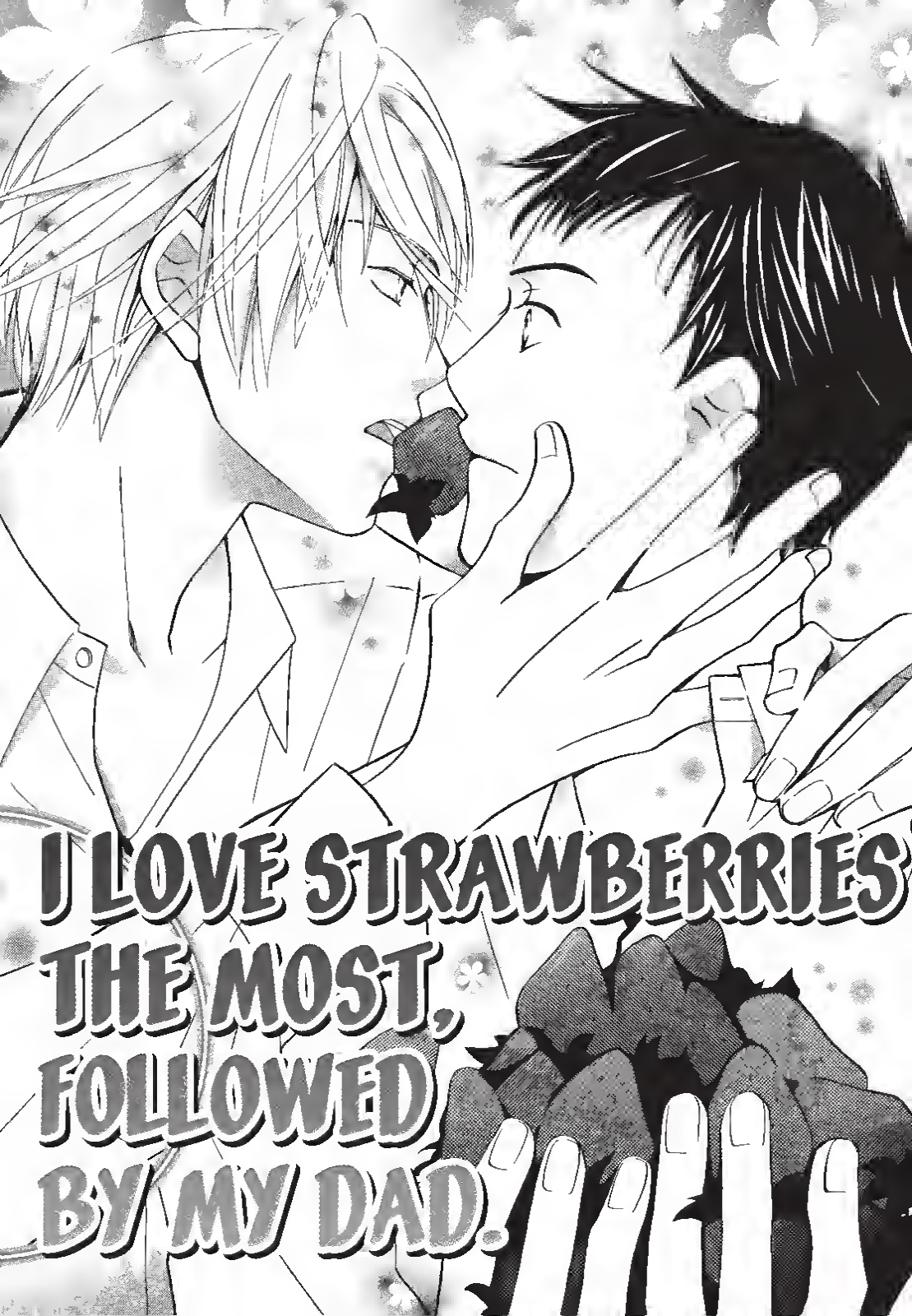
...WHY NOT...?
IF YOU LIKE MY MOLE MORE THAN YOU DO ME, I DON'T WANT THAT.
IT'S THE SAME THING.
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. DON'T YOU SEE YOU'RE COMPLETELY DISREGARDING MY PERSONALITY?
...WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU LIKE ME?
...I'LL DO ANYTHING.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO MAKE YOU MINE...?
...

...I THOUGHT HE WAS THE CUTEST GUY IN OUR CLASS...! I THOUGHT HIS BODY WAS SO DAMN SEXY...! BUT THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH A GUY WHO DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT SOMEONE'S LOOKS OR PERSONALITY AS LONG AS THEY HAVE A NICE MOLE!
UGH, IT'S SUCH A WASTE...!!
HE MUST BE A PERVERT?!
UM... OGATA?
...EXCEPT... IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIKING SOMEONE'S LOOKS AND LIKING THEIR MOLE? IS THERE NO DIFFERENCE?
NO NO NO, I CAN'T PUT THEM IN THE SAME PERSPECTIVE... CAN I?
...
ANY-THING?
...
ANY-THING
...OGATA.
IT HAS TO BE YOU.

...ALL RIGHT.
HUH?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT. I BELONG TO YOU.
OR RATHER...
...YOU BELONG TO ME.
YES! THANK YOU!
I LOVE YOU, OGATA!
OH... REALLY?
ME OR MY MOLE?

HUH?
YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANY-THING...
THEN NEXT TIME, I GET TO DO YOU FROM BEHIND.
FLASH
HE'S SO BLUNT?
BLUSH
UM . BUT...
...I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO COME... MAYBE...
...OKAY,
AH...
BLUSH
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU COME.
THEN WOULD YOU RATHER DO IT IN THE DARK, OR WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED?
I'LL LET YOU PICK.
UM...
I'VE BEEN THINKING...
WHAT?

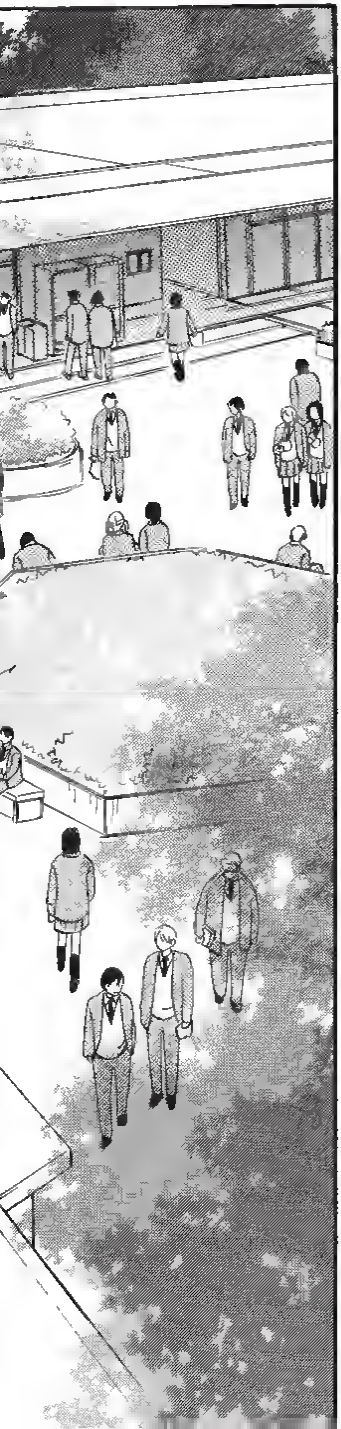
THIS IS LIKE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
OR SOMETHING...
RIGHT?
WOBBLE
YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT.
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE WE FIRST MET!
HAS IT?!
YES!
WE'VE EVEN TALKED!
KING KONG
KANG KONG
DON'T ASK ME!
THEY'RE NOT COMING BACK
HEH HEH.
...WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
SCARY
KING KONG
ABSOLUTE CONDITION ◎ END


I LOVE STRAWBERRIES THE MOST, FOLLOWED BY MY DAD.

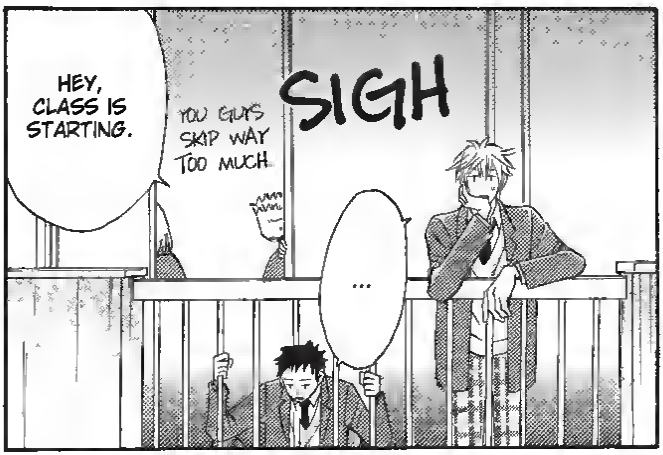
OOIWA.
KATOU.
KIKUCHI, SAEKI.
SHIOMI.
GET SERIOUS ALREADY.
YEAH...
ASHIHARA.
A-SHI-HA-RA.
POKE!
...DON'T POKE ME.

KYOU ASHIHARA
96
I THOUGHT I DID PERFECTLY, BUT I WAS WRONG.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SHUT UP.
CRUNCH
THAT'D BE STRANGE...
WHAT ARE YOU DEPRESSED ABOUT? DID YOU FAIL THE TEST?
TUG
KING KONG
AT LEAST YOU'RE AWARE OF IT...
DAMN IT, WHY AM I SO STUPID?
MAKE SURE YOU CORRECT AND RETURN YOUR TESTS BY OUR NEXT CLASS.
THAT IS ALL.
KANG
PLOP
HUH?
WHAA?!

YESTER-DAY...
WHAT IS IT NOW?
...I'M DEPRESSED.
WHY'S THAT?
MY HAIR WAS CUT TOO SHORT.
THE WIND IS HITTING MY NECK!
YOU'RE WORSE THAN A GIRL! YOU GET DEPRESSED OVER ANYTHING!
AND TODAY, I DISCOVERED A LOVER'S BETRAYAL.
HUH?
BETRAYAL?
SLAP
ROMANCE NOVELS...
...JUST FLIP TO THE END AND READ THAT. THEY ALL HAVE HAPPY ENDINGS.
Y'KNOW, I SOMETIMES READ ROMANCE NOVELS.



I GET IT AS A SUBSCRIPTION ON MY CELL PHONE.


HEY, CLASS IS STARTING.
YOU GUYS SKIP WAY TOO MUCH.
SIGH
...

YOU REALLY LIKE STRAW-BERRIES, HUH?
I LOVE STRAW-BERRIES MORE THAN ANYTHING.
I WILL EAT THE REST OF YOUR LUNCH, TOO
WANT ONE?
SURE.
HERE.
BITE
IT'S SWEET!
FOLLOWED BY MY FATHER.
ASHIHARA HAS BEEN...

WHERE'S MOM?
AND WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS MOM THROUGH DEATH.
DAD. DAD!
...SEPARATED FROM HIS FATHER FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE. SO I HEARD...
I THINK I'M FORGETTING WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.
...HE COMES AFTER STRAW-BERRIES?
IS SHE CLOSE BY?
I DON'T THINK HE'S INTERESTED IN ME LIKING HIM.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOUR UNCLE?
HIS DAD'S OLDER BROTHER IS WEALTHY, AND HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF HIM SINCE HE WAS 6. I GUESS...
DAD...?
CHOMP
HA HA HA...
EVEN BELOW STRAW-BERRIES...

...AS FOR ME,
MY DAD'S A SALARY MAN, MY MOM WORKS PART-TIME, AND MY SISTER STAYS AT HOME... SHE GOT DIVORCED...
YOU COMPARE EVERYTHING TO FRUIT, HUH? OR ARE STRAWBERRIES VEGETABLES?
...SHOULD I NOT?
キーン コーン
KING KONG
SHIOMI?
?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
AREN'T YOU LISTENING?
AHH...
THE SKY SURE IS BLUE...
キーン コーン
KANG KONG
WHAT?
WE HAVE CLASS.

NGH!
YANK
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT.
...
...I DON'T.
...
TCH...

UM...
SHIOMI...?
YOUR HAIR IS CUTE.
HUH?
I THINK CELL-PHONE NOVELS ARE SILLY, BUT I'LL READ IT WITH YOU SO WE CAN WORRY ABOUT IT TOGETHER.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN A NITWIT 'TIL NOW, ANYWAY.
...A NIT-WIT...?
HEY!
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN FOR YOU.

BUT ASHIHARA...
...I WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO UNLESS YOU TELL ME.
...
...SHIOMI.
HM?
...CAN I KISS YOU?

...TSS,
MNN.
...
WE CAN'T,
SHIOMI!
IT'S FINE.
WAIT, STOP.
THAT'S ENOUGH.

HERE? OUTSIDE?!
SURE.
...TSS.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME-
DOING IT OUT HERE.

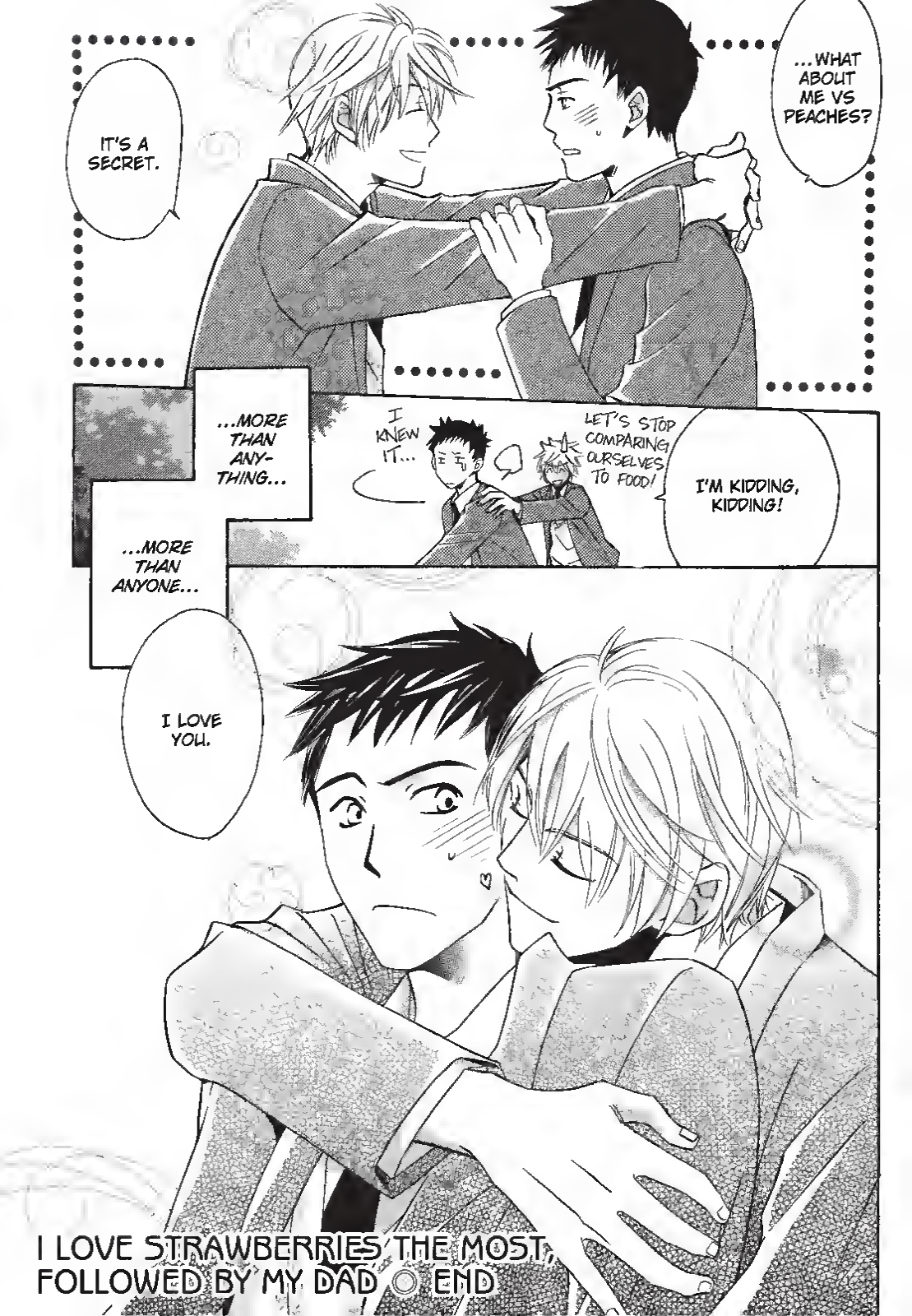
NGH!
NGH!
HAAH...
...AHH...
I'M GONNA...
TSS...
WANT ONE?

HERE.
SURE.
...
HE'S FINALLY CHEERING UP.
WHAT?
SO?
GULP

...
...
...
...
EMAIL...
THEN WHAT IS IT?
HUH?
NO!
OOF
SO... YOU WERE JUST USING ME.
...YESTERDAY... I WROTE YOU SOMETHING STRANGE... AND SINCE YOU DIDN'T ANSWER, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE MAD AT ME...
STARE
WHOA, HE REALLY IS LIKE A GIRL.
OHH?
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
I KNOW IT'S STUPID! I KNOW!
I KNEW IT WOULDN'T WORK WITH YOU!
WOULDN'T WORK?

ACTUALLY... SOMETIMES I GET REALLY INSECURE.
IT'S SO STUPID...
JUST FORGET IT...
SORRY, I DIDN'T SEE IT. HOLD ON.
HUH?
WHA?
WHY?
OH YEAH, MY PHONE IS OFF.
OOPS..
DIDN'T I TELL YOU HOW MY SISTER BROUGHT HER KID WITH HER?
BECAUSE THINGS WERE PRETTY CRAZY WHEN I WENT HOME YESTERDAY.
HM, FROM ASHIHARA..
WHOA, 24 MESSAGES
BEEP BEEP BEEP
THEN I SLEPT IN THIS MORNING, AND WITH YOU ACTING SO DEPRESSED I FORGOT ABOUT IT.
OH... YEAH...
SO...
THERE IS THAT
WAHH!
WAIT!! IF YOU DIDN'T SEE IT ALREADY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ IT!

I LOVE STRAW-BERRIES BEST.
FOLLOWED BY MY FATHER.
HEH...
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOURSELF.
"I LIKE YOU BETTER THAN STRAW-BERRIES."
LIKE I COULD!
IT'S EMBARRASSING!!
...!
AHH...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
THERE, I'VE SEEN IT.
TURN
WHY? I CAN SAY IT. I LIKE YOU BETTER THAN STRAW-BERRIES.
SEE? EVEN TO YOUR FACE.
BUT THE TRUTH IS...
...
...SHIOMI,
YOU LIKE GRAPES BETTER THAN STRAW-BERRIES.
YUP. AND PEACHES BETTER THAN GRAPES!



I LOVE STRAWBERRIES THE MOST, FOLLOWED BY MY DAD ◎ END

I CAN'T
REMEMBER NOW

MIDORI...
ARE YOU ASEXUAL?
SLAP
WHAT A SOUND!
WHOA
OW...
SNORE

SLIDE
GOOD-NIGHT--
I'M FINE. BYE.
OH, TAKE CARE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
SIR, I'M LEAVING.
OOF...
NEED HELP?
LATER.
KATSU-HIRO, WATER.
AH...
MIDORI SPOILS THAT LITTLE FOOL!
KACCHAN ALWAYS PASSES OUT LIKE THAT.
HE'S FINE. HE LIVES CLOSE BY.
I WONDER IF HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT WITH THOSE SKINNY ARMS.
HA HA HA
DO YOU KNOW THEM, SIR?
YES.
WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.

I LOVE YOU, MIDORI.
IF YOU WERE A WOMAN,
I'D MAKE YOU MINE AND NEVER LET GO.
HEH...
NEVER?
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING TOO MUCH LATELY.
HEH HEH...

I'D KISS YOU EVERY DAY... HOLD YOU...
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU...

JUST THE SAME AS USUAL.
I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL...
WHAT DID I DO YESTERDAY?
...MIDORI...
LIKE ALWAYS.
...MAYBE I SHOULD QUIT DRINKING...
LIAR.
I HAVE CLASS FIRST PERIOD TODAY, SO I'M LEAVING.
LOCK UP FOR ME.
SLAM
UGH
...HOW COLD...

HAAH...
IT'S COLD...
IT'S COLD...
WOBBLE フラ
WHY DO I DRINK SO MUCH WHEN I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
MY HEAD HURTS. WHAT A PAIN.
AM I AN IDIOT?
THUNK
HUH?!
HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU, KATSUHIRO SASAKI!
ME?!
HEY YOU, DRUNKEN KISS-FIEND.
WHOA, THAT'S HARSH!

WASSHI?
YUP.
AHA!
HANGOVER, HUH?
PSHHT~
OW OW OW...
OH,
HEY...
HUH? WELL I AM TECHNI-CALLY A GUY...
REAL NAME: ISAO WASHIO.
GRAB
I MEAN, WASHIO! I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING AS A MAN!
...WASSHI!
YOU SAID THAT YESTERDAY TOO, HON.
WOW, THAT "HONEY" SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. SINCE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, AT LEAST...
WE MET AT THE BAR YESTERDAY, HONEY.
TO BE HONEST I'M JUST HEADING HOME MYSELF.
SLURP
WHAT'S IN THE CUP?
YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY.
AH
SO, YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK.
UM... YEAH...
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY DRUNKEN KISS-FIEND...?

GEEZ...
...SO WHEN I'M DRUNK I BECOME A SLUT?
NOPE, JUST WITH MIDORI. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT, HON. HE'S YOUR BOY-FRIEND, RIGHT?
YOU WERE JUST FRIENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL. WHEN DID YOU GET TOGETHER?
HUH?!
I SAID I LOVED HIM AND GROPED HIM?!
YUP.
THE HELL? THAT'S HORRIBLE!
SURE IS.
I JUST SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT.
I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING! STOP JOKING AROUND!
WE...
WE DIDN'T, WE DIDN'T! WE'RE STILL FRIENDS!
GASP
DID I JUST LOSE MY MIND FOR A SECOND?
WELL?
HM?

...JOKING...?
YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU?
SLUMP
ガーン
NO JOKE.
YOU TWO LOOKED LIKE GAY LOVEBIRDS TO ME, HON--
YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT?
NO!!
...UGH!
GHH!
SMACK
OOH...
AUGH...
...KATSU-HIRO?
AUGH!
AUGH!
AUGH!
SMACK
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
WE HAVE NEIGHBORS ACROSS THAT WALL. CUT IT OUT.
...
?

HM?
THAT IS... HOLD...
...
MIDORI... I...
UM...
ALCO-HOLIC.
POKE
ビシ!
OR SOMETHING.
...I AM OUT OF BOOZE!
IF YOU HAVE TO DRINK, GO HOME. I DON'T HAVE ANY HERE.
I KNOW, I KNOW.
MIDORI...
YOU DON'T *HATE* DRINKING, DO YOU?
YOU NEVER GET DRUNK...

I HATE IT.
SLUMP
SMACK
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
...HE SAID IT LIKE HE WAS SPITTING THE WORDS OUT.
AT LEAST HE HATES THAT AND NOT ME.
HE COULDN'T HATE ME...
HATE ME...? DOES HE...
...UGH...
KACCHAN?
STEP
HUH?
WHAT A SURPRISE! WE GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE.

WHO ARE YOU? I DON'T REMEMBER...
AREN'T YOU MIDORI-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND, KACCHAN?
...WANT TO GET A DRINK?
HEH...
SURE! I'LL HAVE MILK TEA!
REALLY? YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? I'M SHOCKED.
SORRY.
I COME IN DURING MIDORI-CHAN'S SHIFT JUST LIKE YOU, SO WE SEE EACH OTHER A LOT.
OH, REALLY?
IS SHE A STALKER?
YOU MUST ONLY HAVE EYES FOR MIDORI-CHAN.
COUGH
...NOT EXACTLY.
IT'S NOT THAT...
HE SURE IS CUTE, ISN'T HE?
HE IS. HE IS CUTE, BUT HE'S A GUY... AND I'M NOT LIKE THAT...
HM? CUTE? YEAH..
AH!

ISN'T THAT MIDORI-CHAN NOW? HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY
WHERE? WHAT?
HEY, MIDORI-CHAN!
GLANCE
NO WAY, HE JUST LEFT.
HUH..?
DA-DUM
MAYBE...
HE IGNORED ME...
HE IGNORED ME...
HE IGNORED ME...!!
DA DA DUM

KACCHAN, WERE YOU DUMPED?
LISTEN, WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT...
THUNK ガク
AH, I'M LOSING STRENGTH...
I DON'T WANT TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO HER...
MIDORI-CHAN SURE IS COLD.
...COLD?
YOU'RE ALWAYS BABBLING HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HIM. DID HE TELL YOU TO SHUT UP?
ドキ BA-DUM
BULL'S-EYE.
HEE HEE
I CAN'T SAY THAT...!
...
BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT...
YOU POOR THING. WANT ME TO COMFORT YOU?
...HM?

SLAM
...SHUT UP!
WAH!
WHAT?!
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME KACCHAN LIKE HE DOES?!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WAIT...
WHAT?! FORGET IT!
SCRAPE
TURN
THIS IS WHY HE DUMPED YOU, YOU STUPID PERVERT!
STOMP STOMP STOMP
...
SLAM

TOMO-CHAN, MORE!
NO KACCHAN, YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH!
DON'T TUG ON ME..
AHHH...
くだ
FLOP
SLIDE
スライド
YOU'RE MEAN. YER ALL MEAN...
I'M A CUSTOMER-
WELCOME! AH, OVER HERE.
NO.
HMPH!
SATO-SAN, MORE!
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS.
SO AM I.
KASU-HIRO...
HUH?

...MIDORI. WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU HAVE TODAY OFF...
I CALLED HIM. YOU'RE BEING A PAIN - JUST GO HOME.
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF
CAN YOU STAND?
MIDORI...
HUH...
TUG
TIP

CLATTER
KISS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KACCHAN?!
MIDORI!!
EEK!
SIR!!
HELP!!
NGHH ...!!
NGH...!
UNGH!!
YANK
STOP IT, YOU FOOL! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING YOURSELF!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIDORI?
BLUSH
I'M...
SORRY...
WHOA...
AUGH!

WHY DID YOU IGNORE ME?!
DON'T IGNORE ME!
I LOVE YOU...
SLIDE
カラン
SORRY ABOUT THE FUSS...
WAS THERE A FIGHT?
DID YOU TWO GO AT IT?
...NO...

I WONDER IF THEY BROKE UP...
BUT THEY'RE OUR FAMOUS COUPLE!
WELL, SIR?
GET BACK TO WORK, EVERYONE
...WE'VE ATTRACTED A DIFFERENT KIND OF CUSTOMER SINCE THEY STARTED COMING...
LIKE GAYS AND CROSS-DRESSERS...
DOES HE MEAN ME?
HEE HEE...
THAT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING A GAY KISS!
DID YOU SEE, WASSHI?
...DAMN IDIOTS.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS.
WASSHI, YOU SOUNDED SO MANLY JUST THEN!
DID I?
WHEN?
LIKE THIS?
IT WAS GREAT!
...HUH?

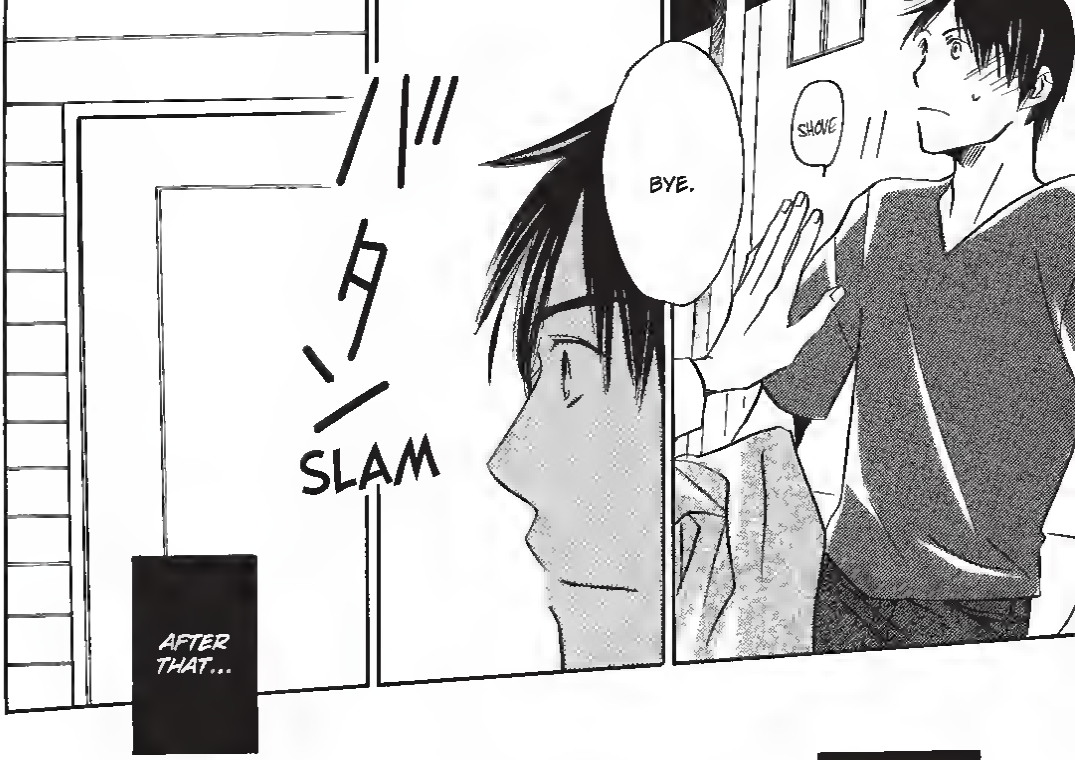
GASP
I DID IT AGAIN?!
...OKAY.
MORNING--
WHY AM I AT YOUR PLACE?
MAN, MY HEAD HURTS...
...KATSUHIRO. COME SIT.
I WON'T TELL YOU NOT TO DRINK,
BUT AT LEAST RESTRAIN YOURSELF SO YOU DON'T ANNOY OTHERS.
こくこくこく
NOD NOD NOD
STARE
WOBBLE
UGH...
I...
...I DON'T MIND.
...FEEL BAD FOR CAUSING TROUBLE ALL THE TIME.
BUT...
UM... I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW 'TIL RECENTLY.

BUT YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING.
WELL...
DO I REALLY CHASE YOU DOWN WHEN I'M DRUNK?
NOT THAT I THINK WASHIO WAS LYING...
...YEAH.
I'M USED TO
YOU KISSING ME.
SMIRK
ER...
EEP!
SORRY...!!
IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T MIND...
IT'S OKAY?!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO EASILY?!
IT'S BETTER THAN LETTING YOU BOTHER ANYONE ELSE. I CAN PUT UP WITH IT.

SLUMP
I'M...
PUT UP WITH IT...
I'M SORRY...
AH..
NO, I MEAN
WHEN YOU'RE NOT DRUNK YOU'RE A GREAT GUY. I LIKE BEING WITH YOU...
BUT...
YOU'VE GOT A GIRL-FRIEND. I'M THE ONE WHO WAS THROWN AWAY.
WAH...
THROW YOU...
I! I!! I THINK OF YOU AS A FRIEND!
DON'T THROW ME AWAY!
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH...!!
...WELL, I DON'T LIKE IT.
WHETHER IT'S A MAN OR A WOMAN...
...I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU...
KISS OR SAY YOU LOVE ANYONE ELSE!

MIDORI...?
...
WHEN YOU DRINK,
I THINK YOU REALLY COULD MAKE LOVE TO ME.
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?!
BUT WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU DON'T REMEMBER.
I CAN'T STAND IT.
SO... LET'S STOP.

HUH?
CREAK
ガチャ
I THINK THAT'S ALL OF IT.
PRETENDING TO NOT KNOW, PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS...
HUH?
UM...
HERE'RE YOUR THINGS
PRETEND-ING...? MIDORI!!
LET'S STOP ALL OF IT.


BYE.
SHOVE
SLAM
AFTER THAT...

...MY PHONE COULDN'T GET THROUGH TO HIM.
HE QUIT HIS JOB AND MOVED.
WE STILL WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL, SO I WAS AT LEAST ABLE TO LOOK UP HIS ADDRESS.
DING DONG

CREAK ガチャ.
ARE YOU DRUNK?
HAAH...
...NO.
MIDORI... I...
WHACK
YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING!
YOU REEK OF BOOZE!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME!
JUST A LITTLE! REALLY! I DON'T HAVE ANY WITH ME!

CREAK
WAIT HERE.
SHOVE
WHOA!
...ALL RIGHT.
TCH..
...ALL RIGHT, COME IN.
YANK
WAH! WAIT..
FWAP
...RIGHT HERE?
THE BATH? AM I SUPPOSED TO GET IN?
SHUT UP. IF YOU BREAK THE GLASS I'LL KILL YOU.
I'M NOT AN ALCOHOLIC!
HUH?!
THAT'S MEAN! LEMME OUT--
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
CLACK
MIDORI?
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED OUT UNTIL THE ALCOHOL WEARS OFF.
THUMP
SILENCE
AH

CREAK
SNORE
SNORE

YANK
...K-KATSU-HIRO?
YOU'RE AWAKE...
I KNOW THESE LIPS.
MNN...
I KNOW THIS TONGUE.

MIDORI.
...!!
I'M SORRY.
I ALWAYS CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY LOVE ME.
SO... UM...
WELL...
...

HAVE YOU SAID THAT BEFORE?
WHILE I WAS DRUNK?!
...NO, I HAVEN'T.
WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?
...WHAT?
I LOVE YOU.
YOU'D JUST FORGET IT, ANYWAY.
NO, I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED! I KNOW IT!
REALLY?
MIDORI-
IT'S OKAY.
JUST BE QUIET.

...WAS THAT... NOT OUR FIRST TIME?
...
I'M NOT TELLING.
YOU'RE EVIL.
I...
...UM...
MIDORI-SAN...?
WHAT?
NO WAIT! I'D REMEMBER! IT CAN'T BE!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!

BOW
I'M SORRY. THANKS FOR HAVING ME BACK.
GRIN
AND THAT...
IS HOW WE GOT TOGETHER!
PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS
A PARTY!
WELCOME BACK TO WORK!
I HAVE A QUESTION!
YES, SIR?
I'M JUST GLAD MIDORI-CHAN IS BACK!
NO IDEA...
WHAT IS THIS?
SLURP
THEN WHAT WERE YOU BEFORE?
FRIENDS.
SO... WHAT ARE YOU NOW?
FRIENDS...
WHO IS GOING OUT WITH WHOM?
MIDORI AND ME!
COME ON, GUYS..

I DON'T REMEMBER NOW ◎ END

11f
10f
SIRENS

ビク
FLINCH.
REEEE
REEEE
REEEE
...
R
SIRENS.
WHAT IS IT?
...NOTH-ING.
I WONDER IF THEY REMIND HIM OF THE ACCIDENT...
HMM...

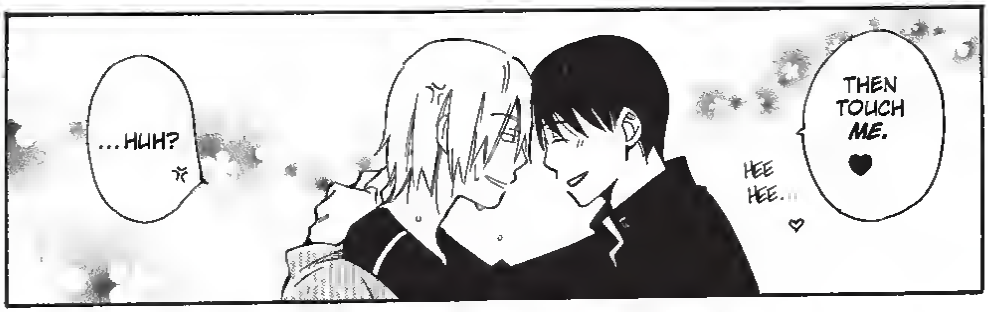
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR...

SINCE ASATO'S PARENTS DIED IN THE ACCIDENT.

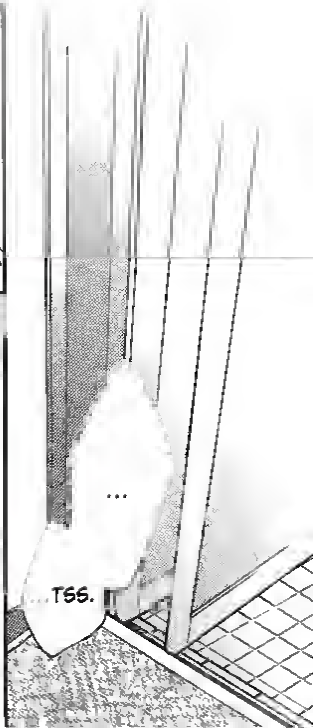
...MY OLDER BROTHER AND HIS WIFE,
SO WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER SINCE THE ACCIDENT.
...AW, DAMN IT...
I'M HOME!
ASATO WAS TAKEN IN BY...
I'M SO DIRTY...
WHY'S THE CURTAIN OPEN?
HAVE YOU EATEN?
I'LL LEAVE YOU...
YEAH...
DON'T CALL ME SHIN-CHAN. WE'LL EAT AFTER I GET OUT.
SHIN-CHAN? ARE YOU IN THE BATH?
CREAK カチャ
OH, YOU'RE HOME EARLY.

WHEN DID YOU GET IN?
ABOUT 30 MINUTES AGO.
OKAY SHINJI, WHEN WILL THAT BE?
I DON'T GET AN HONORIFIC AT ALL?
IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES.
...I SEE.
DO YOU WANT ME TO JOIN YOU?
FLICK
GLUG
LAST TIME WE DID IT IN THE BATH IT FELT SO GOOD YOU CRIED. DID YOU LIKE IT?
EXCEPT THEN YOU HAD A FEVER THE NEXT DAY...
SPLASH
HEE HEE...

...HEY,
DON'T TOUCH ME.
I'M STILL WET.


...HUH?
HEE HEE...
THEN TOUCH ME.

MNN...
HAAH.


...
...TSS.

NGH...!
AH...
HA...
...SORRY.
HAAH...
HM?
...NGHT.
COUGH
RUB
ゴシ
I GOT YOU DIRTY AGAIN.
...SHIN-CHAN?
12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

I START WORK AT A FAMILY RESTAURANT AT 7.
GREAT! THEN LET'S GO GET SUSHI TONIGHT.
YAY!
SO SORRY!
AND WHY WOULD YOU SUGGEST SUSHI WHEN WE'RE ALREADY EATING?
MUNCH MUNCH
ガッ がり SLUMP
I COULDN'T TAKE THE SMELL.
AT THE BENTO SHOP? I QUIT.
...DON'T YOU WORK AT 5?
LIKE I WAS SAYING...
HERE'S YOUR TEA
YOU SHOULD WORK NORMAL HOURS.
...WHEN DID YOU BECOME A WORKA-HOLIC?
DAMN.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
YOU LIAR. YOU SAID YOURSELF YOU'D RATHER DIE YOUNG AND NOT HAVE TO WORK.
I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. I CAN'T GET UP DURING THE DAY
IT'S WHAT YOU SAID TO MY DAD WHEN YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
SLURP
ずず
I DON'T REMEMBER. YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 5 BACK THEN YOURSELF.
I WAS 6.

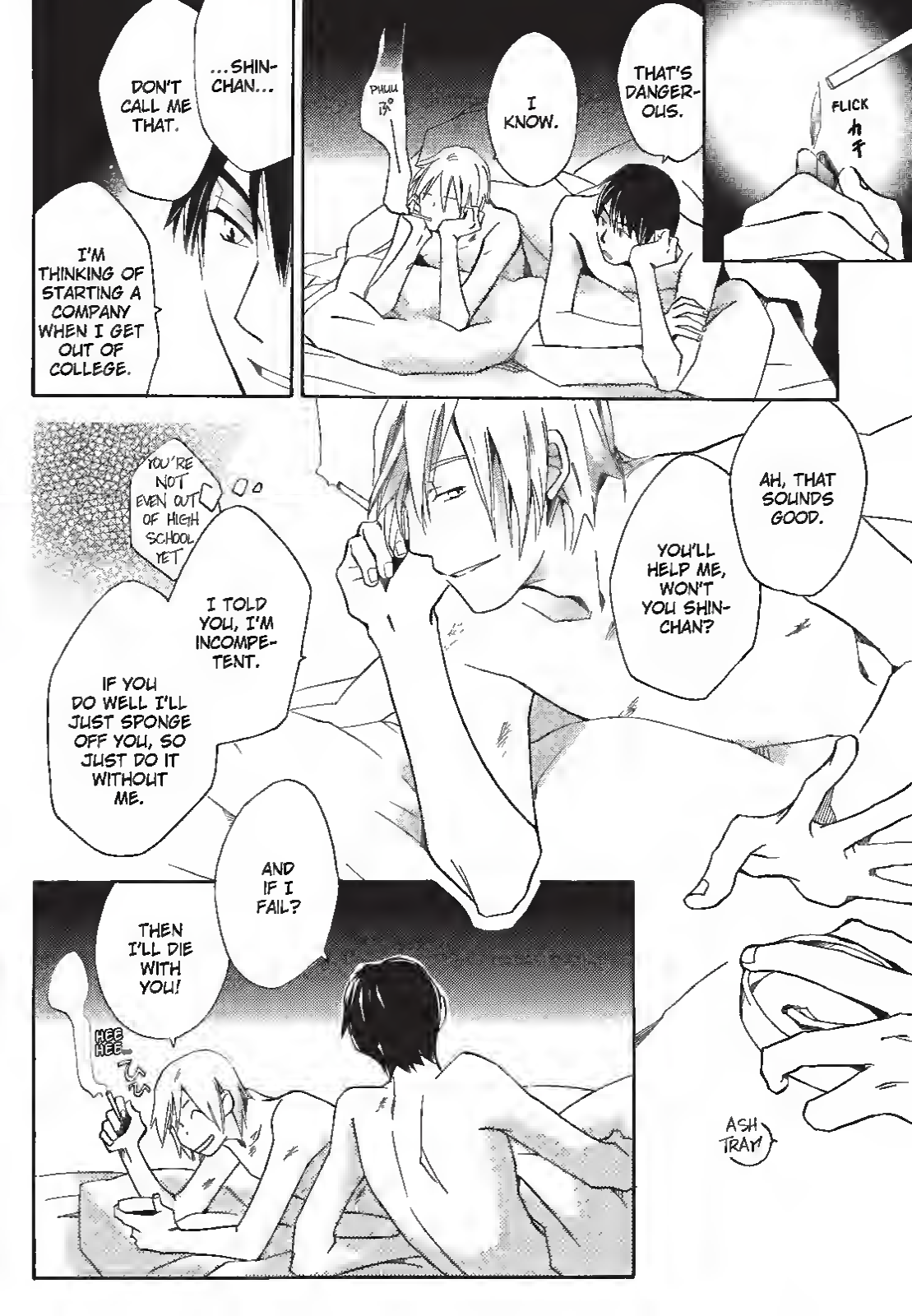
...BUT IT WOULDN'T BE BAD, DYING A ROMANTIC DEATH.
SMIRK
HOW SO?
MUTTER
IF YOU PUT ME IN FOSTER CARE, I'LL HAVE TO WORK.
SCRAPE
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
MUTTER
RICH THANKS TO HIS INHERI-TANCE
POOR
...SHIN-CHAN?
ASATO, DO YOU WANT TO START CALLING ME "DAD"?
HRMM...
IT'S NOT THAT...
HEE HEE!
I KNOW.

...I KNEW IT.
I NEED TO QUIT THE FOOD INDUSTRY.
OR AT LEAST THE SMELL INDUSTRY
WOBBLE
ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK.
DAMN, I FEEL LIKE A DRUNK.
REEEE
REEEE
...
REEEE
REEEE
CREAK
HEY, WANT COFFEE?
WELCOME HOME.
DID YOU MAKE SOME?
IT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF MINE. YOU CAN HAVE IT.
SURE, THANKS.

...DID YOU...
HEAR THE SIRENS?
MAYBE.
YOU MUST BE WONDERING IF THEY REMIND ME OF THE ACCIDENT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THEY DON'T BOTHER ME.
I'M NOT AS SENSITIVE AS YOU ARE, SHIN-CHAN.
SMACK
OW!
YEAH, AND...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BECOME THE KIND OF GUY WHO PUTS HIS HANDS ON A YOUNG MAN.
SIGH
SO GETTING FORCED BY SOMEONE IS "PUTTING YOUR HANDS ON THEM" NOW?
YOU POOR ADULT...
NOT ANYMORE!!
NOOGIE
NOOGIE
AND YOU USED TO BE SO CUTE...
JUST LIKE AN ANGEL
THAT HURTS!
HA HA HA
I LOVED YOU EVEN BACK THEN.

...SO,
NO WAY.
HUH? YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
IT WASN'T JUST BECAUSE RESISTING WAS TOO MUCH TROUBLE?
HEY, NOW
DON'T BE STUPID. IF I REALLY DIDN'T WANT YOU, I WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU GO THROUGH WITH IT.
HUH? REALLY?
YOU MUST THINK I'M PRETTY CARELESS.
HMMM...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO DIE YOUNG.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL...
AND YOU?
I WANT...
ME?
きし.
CREAK

A FORCED DOUBLE SUICIDE,
MAYBE?
SQUEEZE
OH...?
...WHY IS IT ALWAYS "FORCED" WITH YOU?
NGH..
IS DOUBLE SUICIDE NOT ENOUGH?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN ALWAYS RESIST.
...THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
I *THOUGHT* YOU'D SAY THAT.


...SHIN-CHAN...
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
I'M THINKING OF STARTING A COMPANY WHEN I GET OUT OF COLLEGE.
PHUU
I KNOW.
THAT'S DANGER-OUS.
FLICK
カチ
AH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
YOU'LL HELP ME, WON'T YOU SHIN-CHAN?
YOU'RE NOT EVEN OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL YET
I TOLD YOU, I'M INCOMPE-TENT.
IF YOU DO WELL I'LL JUST SPONGE OFF YOU, SO JUST DO IT WITHOUT ME.
AND IF I FAIL?
THEN I'LL DIE WITH YOU!
HEE HEE
ASH TRAY

OKAY.
EEK.
I'M KIDDING, OF COURSE!
YOU'RE AWFUL! STOP MAKING THAT DREAMY FACE! WITH YOUR TALENT YOU'LL SUCCEED, I'M SURE OF IT!
HM?
SPARKLE SPARKLE
EEK!
I HAD TO GET TO YOU.
...YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE JOKES LIKE THAT.
SLUMP
I'M GOING TO STUDY LAW IN COLLEGE
AH!
GEEZ, HE'S CRAZY
ARE YOU OKAY?
DO YOU NOT LIKE IT NOW?
I'M KIDDING. I'M YOUNG ANYWAY, SO I KNOW IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
LIKE I'D LET YOU! WHAT'S WITH YOU?! THAT'S SO LAME...!!
UGH!
SPUTTER
COUGH
HACK
GAH...
ONCE I SUCCEED, I REGISTER YOU AS MY WIFE!

I...
I KNEW THAT...
BA-DUM
SO...
BA-DUM
...IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, WE'LL DIE TOGETHER.
...THAT'S THE WORST PROPOSAL EVER.

FEVER
MARK

99...
POINT 3...
WEIRD...
RUMBLE
...
DAMN
GOOD MORN-ING...
MORNING. HOW ARE YOU?
HUH?
YOU WERE FALLING OVER YESTERDAY. DO YOU FEEL BETTER?
WITH A FEVER OF 102, OF COURSE I WAS FALLING OVER.
THAT'S NORMAL
BETTER...

99.3 IS ABOVE AVERAGE, BUT IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN YESTERDAY. AND I DON'T FEEL TOO BAD.
HOW-EVER...
THAT'S NOT THE SAME AS BEING ASKED "HOW ARE YOU?"
THINKING
THINKING
THINKING FINISHED!
...I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT THIS EARLY.
...
YEAH...
I SEE.
GOOD MORNING.
OH AOI, HAS YOUR FEVER GONE DOWN? WILL YOU EAT?
SIGH
...
...
SURE.
SCRAPE
IT'S BEEN 6 MONTHS SINCE MOTHER REMARRIED.
SOME-TIMES IT WEARS ME OUT...
...WHAT A PAIN...

WHY CAN'T YOU ASK EASIER QUESTIONS?
IS "YES/NO" NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
AH...
YEAH.
SO, YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK?
AO, YOU'RE SWEATING.
'''
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST COLD, MASAKI.
HUH?
AO!
LET'S DO KARAOKE TONIGHT!
I JUST DECIDED!
I'M NOT GOING...
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M NOT UP TO IT?
LIAR! YOU TOLD A GIRL IN K-CLASS YOU WERE GOING!
YEAH, RIGHT!
AND YOU, MASAKI?
COME WITH US!
I'LL PASS.
I HAVE WORK TODAY

BECAUSE I'M DATING MASAKI!
HUH?!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN DATING GIRLS NOW.
LOOK, THIS GIRL SAW YOUR PIC AND WANTS TO MEET YOU!
LOOK AT HER!
GRR...
WHY NOT?
WHY NOT?
GLANCE
UH OH...
WOW, HE'S TURNING RED!
OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO.
DID YOU THINK SO, TOO?
すた STEP すた STEP すた STEP
DAMN...
YOU BELIEVE THAT?!
NO, WAIT!
HEY!
WHOA, THAT WORKED FAST

WHAT?
SHALL WE KISS?
C'MON...
...
...
...
...AO.
DROP DEAD!!
IS THIS HOW A HEALTHY HIGH SCHOOL GUY ACTS?!
BUT I'M SICK--
SHOVE
OOF!
BEING SICK IS ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SWEAR OFF GIRLS?!
YUP
YUP?!
AHH...
YOU REALLY ARE COLD, MASAKI.
...IT FEELS GOOD.
IDIOT!
YOU HAVE A FEVER.
HA HA HA
I KNOW.
I'M FALLING--
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

MASAKI IS...
A NICE ESCAPE.
BUT...
AO-KUN!
...THINGS CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.
SO?

HMM...
DID YOU SAY YES?
WHAT IF I DID?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
SHE WAS REALLY CUTE.
SMALL, THIN, QUIET.
LIKE A REAL LADY.
SHE GETS POINTS FOR BEING AT A DIFFERENT SCHOOL - S GIRLS ACADEMY.
...
REALLY? ISN'T IT BETTER TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL?
WELL, I WOULDN'T GET TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH YOU.
YOU'RE WEIRD...
HMM...
WAIT...
HUH?

WOULD YOU BE LONELY EATING LUNCH ALONE, MASAKI?
...HUH?!
ARE YOU TELLING ME NOT TO GET A GIRL-FRIEND?
BUT YOU CAN HAVE ONE?
NO, NO!
GET ONE IF YOU CAN!
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND?
HOW LONELY DO YOU THINK I'LL BE?!
NOOGIE NOOGIE
OW OW!
DON'T CRY. HERE, HAVE SOME SMOKES.
I'M NOT CRYING!
DON'T GIVE ME AN EMPTY CARTON!
THIS IS TRASH!
CRUNCH
HA HA...
THEN THROW IT AWAY.
KING KONG
KANG KONG
HEY, AOI?
HM?
KING KONG キーンコーン
KANG

NO ONE'S HOME NOW.
HMM...
WHERE'S YOUR MOM?
SHE'LL BE BACK TONIGHT.
OR SHOULD BE...
CAN YOU-
COME OVER TODAY?
YOU ONLY COME OVER WHEN YOUR OLD MAN IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.
THIS IS JUST AN ESCAPE FOR YOU.
HEY, I'VE NEVER SEEN THESE. YOU HAVE A LOT!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND LATELY.
MAN, I WANT TO SEE THIS ONE!!
I WOULD HAVE PLANNED TO STAY THE NIGHT IF YOU'D TOLD ME ABOUT 'EM.
LIAR.
HUH?

I CAN BREATHE EASY WHEN I'M WITH YOU.
...BUT LATELY...
...YOU SUFFOCATE WHEN YOU'RE HERE, TOO?
NO...
UM...
IT'S MY "ALL-IMPORTANT SHELTER."
SAME DIFFERENCE
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE HIM. HE'S JUST SUFFOCATING SOMETIMES.
YOU'RE AVOIDING ME. I'M SORRY.
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
BECAUSE I SHOULD.
...MASAKI?

IT IS LIKE THAT. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
YOU KNOW, BUT YOU IGNORE IT.
THEN AT SCHOOL YOU POKE FUN. FOR WHAT? TO LAUGH AT ME?
...LIKE I SAID--
FRESHMAN FROM S ACADEMY MY ASS!! STOP SCREWING AROUND!!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES AT NIGHT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT, DON'T YOU?
WHO'S THE IDIOT?!
WHAT?!
DAMN IT, LET GO!
NO!
YOU'RE WRONG, YOU IDIOT!! YOU'RE THE ONE SCREWING AROUND!
WHY DID YOU KISS ME, ANYWAY?!
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU OF COURSE!
ARE YOU STUPID?!

...!!
CRASH
TSS...
MASA-...
NGH...!

...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
STARTLE
BA-DA-BUM!
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU YOUR DAMN NOISY CELL.
LEAVE ME ALONE
...WHAT-EVER. JUST GO HOME.
MASAKI,
I'M NOT DATING ANYONE.
OFF
オフ
BEEP
...AREN'T YOU GONNA ANSWER YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
CLAP
NO.

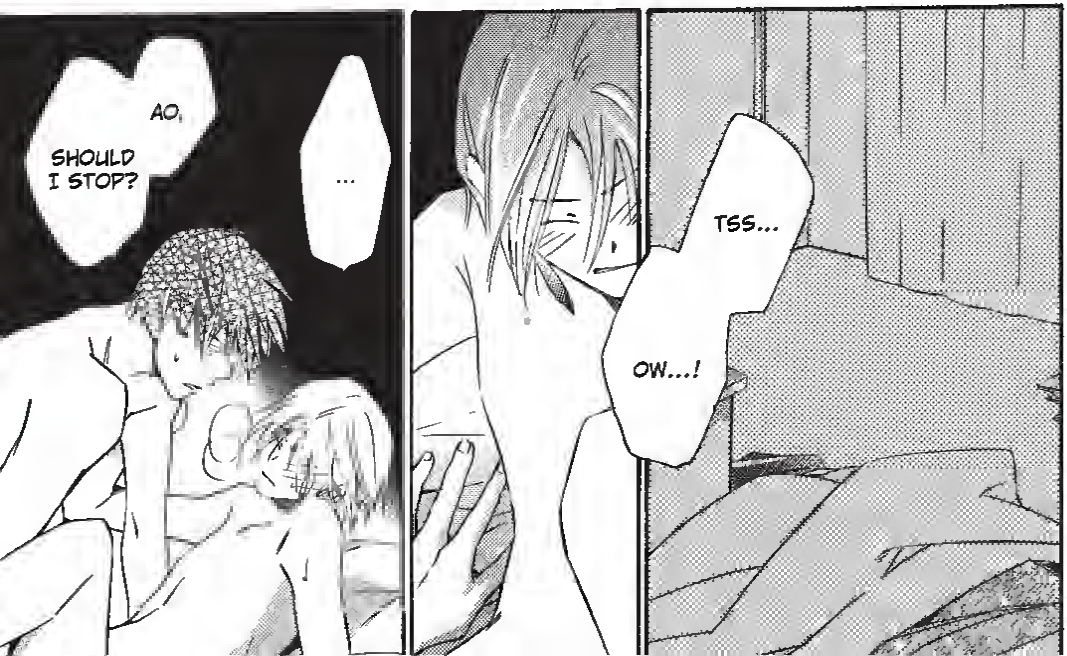
...
HUH?
I DO IT ALL THE TIME.
NO, I DIDN'T.
BUT YOU SAID YOU AGREED...
HUH?!
...BUT THE S FRESH-MAN?
HUH?
I NYA!
I TURNED HER DOWN.
I JUST SAID THAT TO FIRE YOU UP.
BUT YOU WEREN'T ACTING JEALOUS AT ALL, SO...
I GOT CARRIED AWAY.
...!!
BLUSH
YANK
WAH--

THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO JUMP YOU!!!
IT WOULD BE WORSE THAN BEING HATED!!
I'D RATHER STOP BEING FRIENDS THAN HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU BABBLE ABOUT A GIRL-FRIEND!
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO DESPERATE!
I WAS JEALOUS!
WHOA!
WHAT HORRI-BLE LOGIC ...
ALL THAT SO QUICKLY?!
...!!
HUFF
I LOVE YOU, DAMN IT!

I KNOW.
I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY CONFESSED, MASAKI.
HEE HEE
SHUT UP.
NO, WAIT.
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT BEING SUFFO-CATED?
YOU WERE THE ONE SAYING IT.
...I JUST WANTED TO SAY IT HURTS TO BREATHE.
WHAT'S THE DIFFER-ENCE?!
WELL...
WHEN I'M WITH YOU...
...YOU'RE SO WARM AND SAFE, AND IT FEELS SO GOOD THAT I ALMOST WANT TO FALL ASLEEP.
YOU'RE MY FAVORITE PERSON TO BE WITH.
SAFE?
BUT LATELY, WHENEVER YOU TOUCH ME...
...IT FEELS LIKE I HAVE A FEVER.

AND I CAN'T BREATHE...
...
DIDN'T YOU SAY BEFORE THAT I WAS COLD?
HAAH..
AH...
BLUSH
SHUT UP. THAT WAS BECAUSE I HAD A REAL FEVER!
DON'T PEOPLE LIKE THIS SAY THEIR CHEST HURTS, RATHER THAN IT HURTS TO BREATHE?

STOP LAUGHING AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
HA!
EITHER WAY, IT'S YOUR FAULT!
SHUT UP!
TUG


AO, SHOULD I STOP?
...
TSS...
OW...!

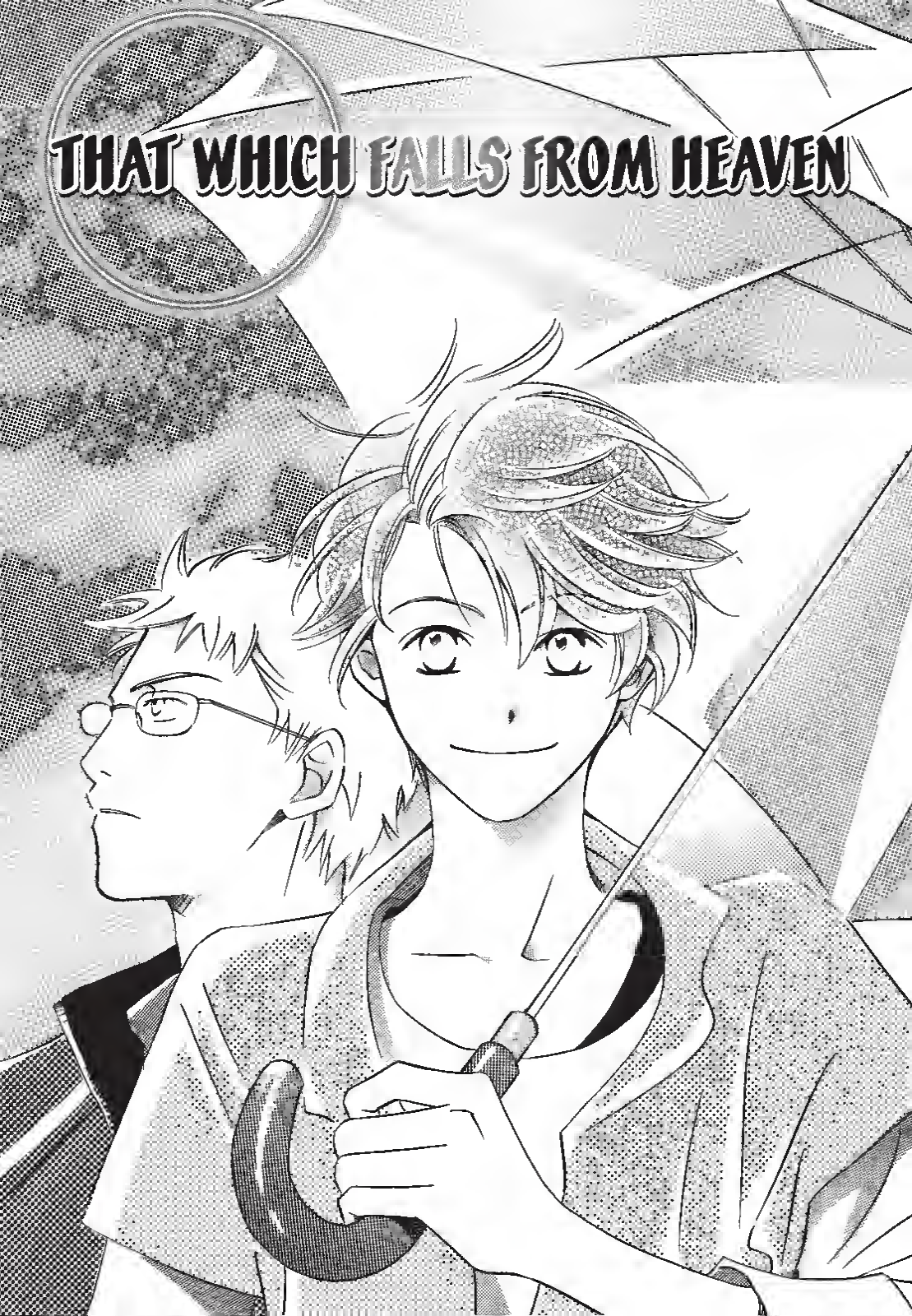
IF...
YOU THINK YOU CAN...
...TSSS.
...JUST TRY IT...!
AH...
I CAN'T.
IT'S NO GOOD
SO... I WON'T HOLD BACK.
PUSH
NGH!
NGH...!
HUH?
NO WAY!
HOLD BACK A LITTLE!
I CAN'T.
BEEP BEEP
98.4°F

...IT'S TRUE.
I FEEL HEAVY AND I STILL HAVE A FEVER, BUT IT'S PROBABLY FROM HAVING SEX WITH A GUY YESTERDAY.
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT REALLY SICK.
NO...
OF COURSE...
UM...
...
GOOD MORNING.
...
GOOD MORNING. ...WHAT'S WRONG?
AH...
ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE.
RATHER THAN FEELING FEVERISH, I FEEL HEAVY.
MY LEGS ARE WOBBLING.
SUMP
COME ON, OLD MAN.
...WHAT?
LEAVE ME ALONE
ARE YOU STILL SICK?
WAVER
HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FINE.
NOT THAT I CAN SAY THAT.
I'M FINE, THANKS TO YOU.
A TRADITIONAL, POLITE RESPONSE.
...!
HEH...
OH, I SEE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
?
WHO KNOWS
I SEE! THAT'S GREAT!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
I GET IT?
MORNING, MASAKI!
SMACK
YO.
YOU'RE EXAGGER-ATING!
OW!
OW OW
A...
AO...
A...
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO, THAT REALLY HURT
OKAY WITH WHAT?
"WHAT"?
WELL...
"THANKS TO YOU"...
SMIRK
I HAVE A FEVER. PRETTY AWFUL, REALLY.
HUH?
WOOSH
HEY, YOU TWO.
EEP
MORN-ING.
WHOA...
PAT
WOW, YOU ARE HOT.
OH...
YOU'RE COLD.
WHY ARE YOU TOUCHING ME LIKE THAT?

FRONT OF THE SCHOOL!
DON'T FLIRT IN PUBLIC SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
HEE HEE
HUH?!
DO YOU WANT THE GIRLS TO SPREAD AROUND THAT YOU'RE GAY?
THEY SAID WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY.
ANYWAY, MASAKI...
...AO!
CLING
THERE, I'VE FULFILLED MY DUTY AS A CLASS-MATE.
RIGHT.
STEP STEP STEP
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING YESTERDAY.
?
BA DUM BA DUM
THAT IT WAS BAD AND YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT EVER AGAIN?
I LOVE YOU.
!!
STONE
THAT'S ALL!
HUH? DID YOU NOT... SAY IT YESTER-DAY?

...
...HEY! WAIT!
HE LOOKS ANGRY...
ASK YOUR BOYFRIEND.
I HAVE A FEVER, CARRY ME--
WAH!
...
WELL...
MY FEVER'S GOING UP.
...SO DO I!
BIT BY BIT...
...YOU'RE BRINGING IT UP.
FEVER MARK ○ END


THAT WHICH FALLS FROM HEAVEN

HA HA HA
TAKAGI?
HM?
HERE, TAKE THIS.
BLACK BEAN COCOA
... THANKS.
BLACK BEAN COCOA?
BYE.

WA HA HA HA!
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
KUMOI IS SO RANDOM!
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT..
ANY CLUE WHAT THAT WAS?
NOPE.
I DON'T GET HIM!
...WELL, I TOOK IT.
DON'T TAKE IT, TAKAGI!
LUCKY ME?
...I HAVE NO IDEA...
AH...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I JUST DID.
KUMOI!
PATTER
PATTER

HUH?
I SLEPT IN, MY HAIR WAS HORRIBLE, I RAN INTO A PERVERT ON THE BUS...
I'M SO WORN-DOWN! TODAY'S BEEN THE WORST.
SIGH
AW, MAN...
I KNOW.
I'M NOT HONEST. DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
HA HA...
BUT...ISN'T IT EASIER TO JUST BE UPSET THAN TO PRETEND TO BE ANGRY?
YOU RAN INTO A PERVERT?
YOU ..
I FORGOT MY PASS AND MY CELL PHONE, LOST 500 YEN UNDER THE VENDING MACHINE...
AND THEN..
AND THEN..
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LET IT SHOW! HOW CAN YOU ALWAYS TELL, KUMOI?!
...

RUFFLE
AND YOUR HAIR LOOKS THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
HA!
I GUESS SO.
POUR
THIS RAIN IS THE FINISHING BLOW. I DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA.
I WONDER WHY IT WORKS SO WELL. AM I TOO EASY TO PLEASE?
UMBRELLA...
HUH?
I FEEL ENERGIZED!
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE. THANKS FOR THIS.

I HAVE TWO, SO I'LL LEND YOU ONE.
SLURP
...DAMN, I'M GONNA FALL FOR YOU.
THEN SHOULD WE SHARE THE ONE UMBRELLA? LET'S GO HOME.
JUST LEND ME ONE.
BEING WITH YOU REMINDS ME OF MY BROTHER.
DO YOU HAVE SIBLINGS?
YOUR BROTHER?
I'M AN ONLY CHILD.
YEAH. HE ALWAYS LAUGHED SO LOUDLY...

KUMOI, LAUGH FOR ME.
HUH?
HA HA HA...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
...
HA, THAT'S NO GOOD AT ALL.
BUT... YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE HIM AT ALL. I WONDER WHY YOU REMIND ME OF HIM...
ARE YOU ASKING ME?
NOPE, I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.
... ;
YOUR BROTHER, HE...
...TAKAGI?
ZOOM
...YEAH, 6 YEARS AGO HE...

POUR
I CAN'T SEE.
UM...
...6 YEARS AGO...
HE DIED... IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT...
...AH.
POUR
POUR
...THAT ALMOST BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES...
...I'M SURE.
AH HA HA.. THANKS, KUMOI.
HONK
SCREECH
CRUNCH
ZOOM

SOAKED TO THE BONE!
MAN...
I'M DESTINED TO BE SOAKED.
CRUNCH
SORRY.
YOUR UMBRELLA'S DEAD.
DON'T BE.
EH?
YOU CAN TAKE A BUS! LIKE THAT.
IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE.
COME BY MY PLACE.
POUR
I'M HOME!
MOM, I NEED A TOWEL.
OH, HOW AWFUL.
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH COLD HURRY AND TAKE A SHOWER!
SOAKED...
ACHOO!

RATTLE ガチャ.
I'M OUT OF THE BATH!
SURE.
SORRY ABOUT GOING FIRST.
AND THANKS FOR THE CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
THEY'RE HUGE (HA HA)
YOU CAN SIT HERE.
OKAY.
AH,
THIS IS A LIBRARY BOOK. WHY'S HE TREATING IT LIKE IT'S HIS?
AND IT'S UPSIDE DOWN
HMM...
ぱら FLIP

...WHAT'S THIS? A FACE?
IT'S UPSIDE DOWN, TOO
CREAK
カチャ
DO YOU WANT THE DRYER...? FOR YOUR HAIR?
STARE
HEY...
SHOOP
AH...!
KUMOI, WHAT IS THAT?
NOTHING. JUST A DOODLE...
DID YOU DRAW IT?
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
AW, CRAP
IT'S NOT THAT GREAT
AH...
FOLD FOLD FOLD
NO... UM...
HMM...

JUMP
C'MON!! WHAT IS IT?!
WAH!
SLIP
THUD
SNATCH
...MY BROTHER.
THIS IS DEFINITELY MY BROTHER!
THUNK
AUGH--
YOU DREW THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?!
HE DIED A LONG TIME AGO!

WHIP?
THERE
...?
NOW HE'S THERE.
IN SHORT, HE'S A
GHO--
MMPH!
...
...HE'S RIGHT THERE.

...ME, MY FAMILY, MY RELATIVES...
SIGH...
AS FAR AS I KNOW, NONE OF US HAVE THAT KIND OF TALENT.
WE'VE NEVER FELT THE PRESENCE OF GHOSTS.
SO HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MY BROTHER, WHO HAD NO SUPERNATURAL SENSE, IS RIGHT THERE?!
THERE'S NO WAY!
WELL..
BUT HE IS DEAD, RIGHT?
WE'RE CLEAR ON THAT?
DEAD...
YEAH
WOBBLE
KNOCK KNOCK
...ARE YOU SERIOUS...? MY BROTHER IS...THERE?
UM..
HEY...

YOU'RE WELCOME. TAKE YOUR TIME.
THUNK
HERE'S SOME TEA!
AND I DRIED YOUR UNIFORM.
OH, THANK YOU.
HM...
...
IT'S HARD TO SEE YOUR PARENTS BE UPSET.
HUH?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THEM WEEPING OR ANYTHING.
I JUST HATE SEEING IT.

YEAH...
...SO, EVEN THOUGH MY BROTHER'S DEAD, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINE, HUH?
WHENEVER I'M UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, THIS LADY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GIVES ME THIS SAD "YOU POOR THING!" LOOK.
HER SHALLOW COMFORT PISSES ME OFF THE MOST.
...SORRY.
HM?

SORRY!
IT TAKES FOREVER FOR ME TO EVEN REALIZE WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP.
Y'KNOW?
PAT

WHAT ARE YOU SORRY FOR? ARE YOU EVER INSINCERE?
HA HA
NO, BUT...
C'MON, KUMOI
YOU JUST BLURT THINGS OUT WITHOUT EXPLANATION!

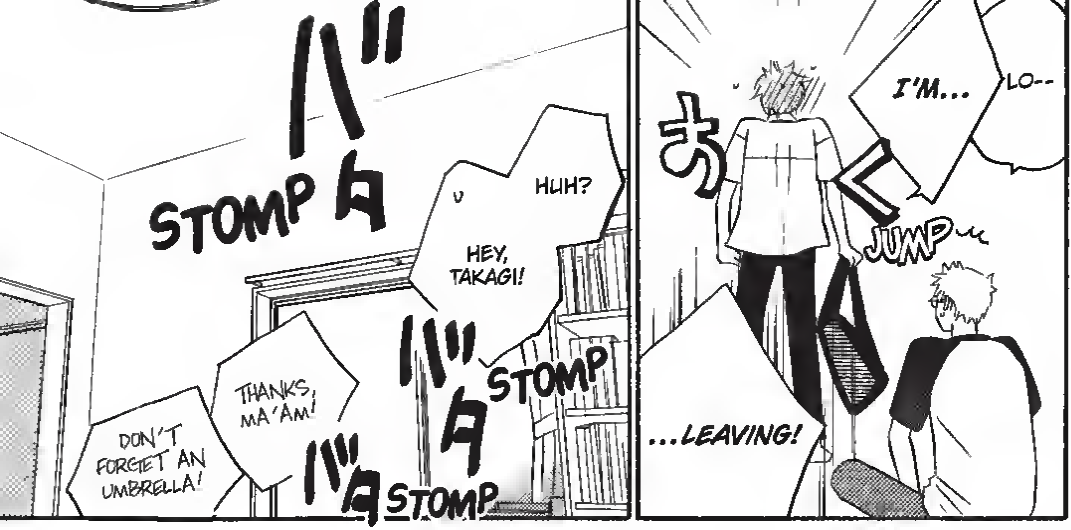
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE!
I DON'T MIND.
IN FACT, IT'S FUNNY...
HEE HEE HEE
IF YOU SAY SO...
YEAH. HEY, KUMOI,
I WANT TO TALK TO MY BROTHER. TRANSLATE FOR ME.

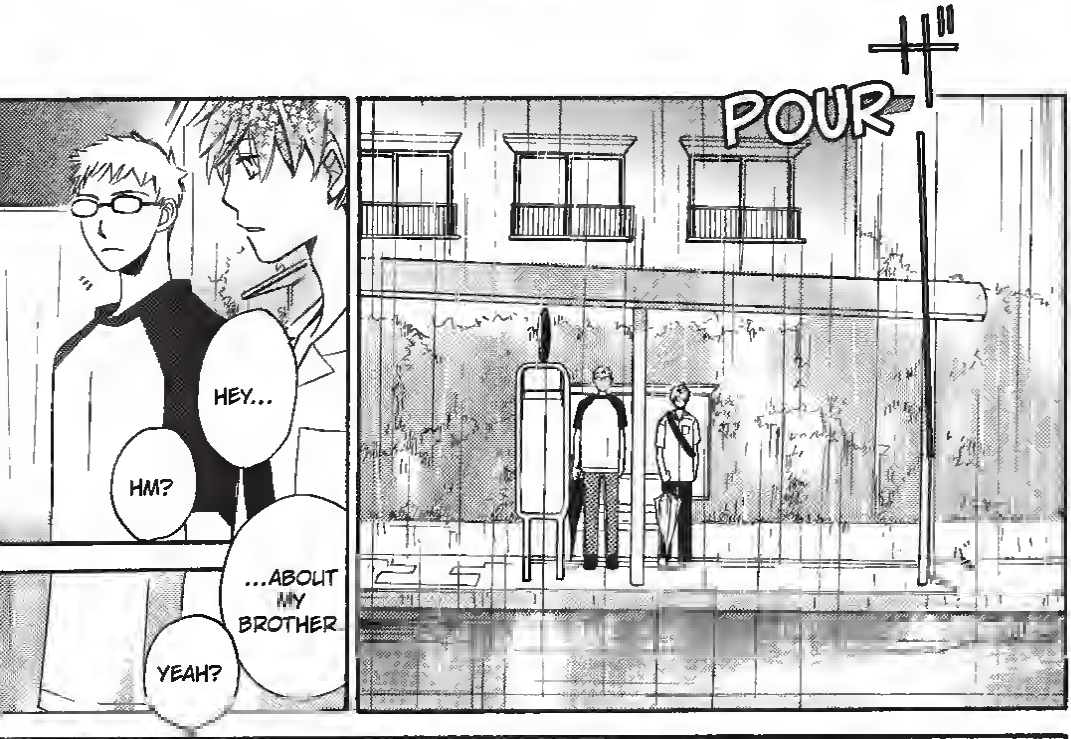
AH, I CAN'T HEAR HIS VOICE.
I CAN ONLY SEE HIM. WE'VE NEVER TALKED.
NO WAY! WHY NOT?
I DON'T KNOW.
HUH?
BUT, THEN...
DOESN'T HE TELL YOU WHEN I'M UPSET AND ALL...?
HMM, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
NO, I REALLY CAN'T HEAR HIM.
YOU'RE JUST DIFFER-ENT...
DIFFER-ENT?

SORRY.
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
...THAT'S NO HELP AT ALL.
I CAN JUST TELL BY LOOKING AT YOU WHEN YOU'RE UPSET.
...TAKAGI?
MOST PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS STUFF.
WHY?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE SKEPTICAL.
HA HA... THEN WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO! IT'S THE TRUTH!
WHY DO YOU BELIEVE ME SO EASILY? YOU SAID YOURSELF YOU'RE NOT HONEST
ARE YOU LYING?
YEAH, I KNOW. HEY WAIT, SHUT UP.
WELL...
I JUST BELIEVE YOU.
AND YOU HAVE THAT PICTURE...

WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT...
...IT GETS MY HOPES UP...
WHAT IS IT?
...TAKAGI?
KUMOI?
HELLO?

WHAM!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MY BROTHER IS WATCHING!
DO YOU GET OFF ON BEING WATCHED, PERVERT?!
I KNEW IT!
OW...
...SO IT'D BE OKAY IF HE WASN'T WATCHING?
BLUSH
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M SERIOUS.
I REALLY AM.
TAKAGI, I...


STOMP
HUH?
HEY, TAKAGI!
THANKS, MA'AM!
DON'T FORGET AN UMBRELLA!
STOMP
STOMP
I'M...
LO--
JUMP
...LEAVING!


POUR
HEY...
HM?
...ABOUT MY BROTHER
YEAH?

I DON'T THINK IT'S LIKE THAT.
IS HE HAUNTING ME?
IF PART OF HIM REALLY WAS LEFT BEHIND,
HE WAS 16 WHEN HE DIED, THE SAME AGE I AM NOW.

I THINK HE'S MORE OF A GUARDIAN SPIRIT.
CRY-BABY!
IT'S NOT LIKE I SEE HIM ALL THE TIME.
I'M NOT REALLY SURE
WHEN I NOTICE HIM, HE'S ALWAYS SMILING AT YOU.
HE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY
SMIL-ING...
I AM NOT!
YOU HAVE BED HEAD!
...
...I SEE.
WELL, THAT'S HOW YOU SHOULD BE.
HUH?
YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO LOOK FINE IF YOU'RE NOT.
MAN, I'M EXHAUST-ED.
DAMN, I BETTER START SMILING!
SMACK
SMACK
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

VROOM
AH, HERE'S THE BUS. I'LL RETURN YOUR UMBRELLA TOMORROW
SPLASH
THROB
ERR...
YOU CAN TELL HOW I FEEL ALL THE TIME, ANYWAY.
PSHHHH
I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER
BUT...
BUT WHY WOULD HE KEEP MY BROTHER'S PICTURE HERE...
HUH?
WHAT, ANOTHER?
LUCKY ME FOR GETTING IT...
RUSTLE
HA HA...
I TOOK IT!
IT IS A SCHOOL BOOK...
GOOD WORK, ME!
THERE'S ONLY ONE STOP AFTER THIS, SO THE BUS IS EMPTY.

HUH...?
IT'S NOT
MY BROTHER?
BA-DUM
IN FACT..
HUH?
COULD THIS...
BLUSH
WHOA!
YOU KNOW...
ME? BE...
IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE ME!!

...I REALIZED THE TRUTH.
MUTTER MUTTER
WOULD IT BE BETTER TO STAY FRIENDS? OR...
I'LL CONFESS PROPERLY TOMORROW! OR WAS THAT A REJECTION ALREADY?
THE MEANING...
...IN THAT LOOK.

BUT HIS HANDS ARE WARMER THAN MY BROTHER'S.
IT'S PRETTY BAD...
RUFFLE
ぐしゃ——
KU-MO-I!
S-SORRY
HE'S LIKE MY OLDER BROTHER.
...BESIDES, TIME AFTER TIME,
HE'S BEEN KIND TO ME WHEN I WAS DOWN.
AND IT'S NOT SO BAD.
BUT GEEZ, WHAT CRAZY TIMING...
AND... IT WAS...
UM..
AND THEN...
...IT WASN'T
REALLY THAT BAD...
AW, DAMN..
"I'M SERIOUS."

I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY.
DAMN.
IT WAS JUST SO SUDDEN...
BROTHER, ARE YOU THERE?
...YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE ME IF I TURNED OUT TO BE GAY, WOULD YOU?
...

...OH, WELL.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO LEAVE ME,
BUT HE CAN'T WATCH OVER ME FOREVER...
BECAUSE, YOU KNOW...
OH, IT'S STOPPING!
WHAT AM I SAYING?!
WAIT!
WOOSH
BUT WHEN IS "THEN"?
I WONDER IF HE'D HAUNT MOM AND DAD THEN?

THAT WHICH FALLS FROM HEAVEN ◎ END

THAT WHICH IS STILL HERE
WHEN WE WERE THERE TOGETHER...
...AND YOU SMILED AT ME SO GENTLY,
THAT MOMENT BECAME PRECIOUS TO ME.
SAIKAWA-SAN, I'VE FINISHED ADDING THE LABELS.
GOOD WORK.
CLACK
CLACK

IWASAKI-SEMPAI, CAN YOU COME TO THE COUNTER?
I HAVE TO RETURN A BOOK
NO.
HUH?
IF I GO OUT INTO THE LIBRARY I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE SAIKAWA-SAN'S FACE.
CLACK
...THERE! INPUT COMPLETE.
YOU HAVE ALL THE BOOKS?
YES, THEY'RE HERE.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
BUT FROM HERE ALL YOU CAN SEE IS THE BACK OF HIS HEAD.
HUH?
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

I'LL CARRY THEM FOR YOU.
I'M FINE
I'LL RETURN THEM. TAKE OVER THE COUNTER, IWASAKI.
SALUTE!
ビシ!
YES, SIR!
HEY!
TCH...
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S GOOD OR NOT, KUMOI.
TOTALLY.
HEY, IT'S GOOD. IT LOOKS LIKE A PERSON NOW.
BUT NOT LIKE HIM.
WELL...
...
HE'S NOT DRAWING ME.
THEN WHO IS IT?

WHO CARES? NO ONE COMES HERE TO STUDY...
LET'S GO.
WHY ARE THEY SO LOUD OVER THERE?
...IS IT YOUR FANTASY GUY? OR SOMETHING?
GASHA GASHA
WHY WOULD I DRAW OUT MY FANTASY IN A LIBRARY?!
BWAHAHAHA! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN!
YOU'RE SO RIGHT!
...
BYE!
180 TURN!
COUNTER
WE'RE CLOSING UP!
EVERYONE LEFT, PLEASE LEAVE!
YOU CAN LEAVE, TOO. I'LL HANDLE THE REST.
OKAY!
SA-I-KA-WA-SAN...
CAN Q-CHAN JOIN US?
LET'S GET SOME OKONOMIYAKI!

NOW, THEN...
WHO'S LEFT...?
NO, I'M TREATING YOU.
IF I KEEP TREATING YOU TWO I'M GOING TO GO BANKRUPT.
LISTEN
...THEN WE CAN SPLIT IT.
WOW, SO SERIOUS!
THAT'S NOT REALLY A SOLUTION. EITHER WAY.
LET'S GO HOME
BUT WHEN WILL THAT BE?!
DRAG
NEXT TIME.
DRAG
IWASAKI-SEMPAI, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF "THE LIBRARIAN'S SLAVE?"

YOU CAN SEE THAT ANY TIME.
HE CRACKED UP READING SOME HISTORY BOOK EARLIER
HA HA HA!
BWA HA HA!
HE'S SO LOUD..
HEE HEE HEE
I DON'T MEAN THAT.
I JUST WANT TO SEE SAIKAWA-SAN SMILE.
SO YOU ADMIT IT.
ARE YOU REALLY GAY?
IT'S MY NICK-NAME!
AHEM!
I WANT TO SEE SOMETHING MORE...SWEET AND LOVELY, LIKE A FLOWER BLOOMING...
UM...
THERE'RE SOME FLOWERS AROUND YOUR HEAD ALREADY..
PERVERTS WHO AREN'T SELF- AWARE ARE THE SCARIEST...
SIGH...
SHUT UP!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO AN UPPER-CLASSMAN?!
IT'S LIKE HE'S LOOKING AT SOMEONE.

AH.
HE STARTLED ME.
SORRY. WE'LL LEAVE.
IF YOU FOLLOW HIS GAZE...
HM?
TSUKASA TAKAGI?

WHAT A SURPRISE...
SO, YOU WERE CLASS-MATES...
AND YOU WERE HIS LITTLE BROTHER...
ER, "ARE."
WERE YOU TWO FRIENDS?
NOT AT ALL.
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER SPEAKING TO HIM.
THIS IS REALLY GOOD, KUMOI-KUN
HUH?!
HOW EMBARRASSING!
ガタ
JUMP
WERE YOU ENEMIES?!
ENEMIES?
NO...
DID YOU NOT GET ALONG? DID YOU HATE EACH OTHER?!

I LOVED HIM.
I LOVED HIM SO MUCH I WAS TOO NERVOUS TO EVEN TALK TO HIM.
HA HA HA!
I WAS SO SHY AND NAIVE!
HOW SILLY!
SHY AND NAIVE?
TSUKASA TAKAGI WAS A STAR, AFTER ALL!
AN IDOL, EVEN.
ISN'T THAT AN OLD WAY OF PUTTING IT?
NOT REALLY...
"IDOL"?
スター
I DON'T THINK SO.
STAR?!
A REAL ONE?
HM? WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK? IT'S TRUE.
TSUKASA TAKAGI...
HE HAD SO MUCH FUN.
WAS ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS.
YOUR BROTHER...

EVERYONE LOVED HIM.
HE'D STAY RIGHT AROUND HERE,
READING, LOOKING OUTSIDE, OR JUST HANGING OUT.
DID HE EVER COME TO THE LIBRARY ALONE?
BROTHER COMPLEX...
HEH. .
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
TAKAGI? UM...YEAH, MAYBE.

I HELPED OUT HERE AT THE LIBRARY COUNTER...
LET ME BORROW THAT.
OHH...
...AND SOMETIMES OUR EYES WOULD MEET.
IT'D MAKE ME SO HAPPY, I'D FEEL LIKE CRYING.
...
TAP
AHH..
...WAS I REALLY COLD BACK THEN?
AM I STILL?
WHAT AM I SAYING?!
RIP
DON'T IGNORE ME! HOW RUDE!
YOU'RE MAKING ME CRY!
HEY, YOU TWO!
YUP.
HE WAS LOOKING AT SAIKAWA-SAN!
I GET IT!
THE COUNTER'S OVER THERE.

HERE.
HUH...?
PLEASE, TAKE IT.
WH-WH-WHY?!
I FIXED HIS GAZE.
H-HIS GAZE?
BUT I NEVER SAID I WANTED...

...!!
...
THANKS FOR TELLING ME ABOUT MY BROTHER!
あくしゅ!
SHAKE
I'M SURE MY BROTHER LIKED YOU, TOO.
...AH?

THANK YOU...
BYE!
BACK THEN...

BUT...
...IF I GREETED HIM WITH A SMILE
AND HE SMILED BACK...
...I'D NEARLY CRY.
NOW...
AH... YOU NEVER GIVE UP...
I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT'S A GOOD THING!

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
...WELL, ALL RIGHT.
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I'M PATIENT. I CAN WAIT.
IF WAITING ISN'T ENOUGH, I'LL WORK AT IT, EVEN IF IT'S WASTED ENERGY.
A WASTE OF ENERGY IS STILL A WASTE.
HMPH...
N-NO,
THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS I HAVE TO WAIT FOR!
DAMN IT, NOW YOU'RE JUST PISSING ME OFF!
HOW IS THIS PATIENCE?
I'M GOING TO GET SOME. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
I'M HUNGRY
HUH?
SUCH AS, DONUTS...
WHY NOT JUST PUT YOUR ENERGY TOWARDS REAL THINGS?
THOUGH EVEN IF I DO, THAT WON'T CHANGE OUR AGE DIFFERENCE...

HUH?
YOU...
HUH...?
LIKE SWEETS ...?
WE COULD GET OKONOMIYAKI, IF YOU WANT.
OH YEAH, YOU DON'T LIKE SWEETS. IN THAT CASE...
I'LL GO!
HM? BUT...
I'LL GO WHEREVER YOU WANT!
HEH...
WELL, I CAN AT LEAST TREAT YOU TO TEA.
PLEASE WAIT FOR ME...
JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

NOW...
I ONLY NEED 5 MINUTES TO LOCK THE DOOR. NOW GET OUT.
AND BE QUIET!
YES!!
I'LL WAIT! I'LL WAIT FOR HOURS!!
...I THINK I CAN SAY IT.
JUST LIKE I WANTED TO SAY IT BEFORE,
AS IF IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
AND IF I CAN...

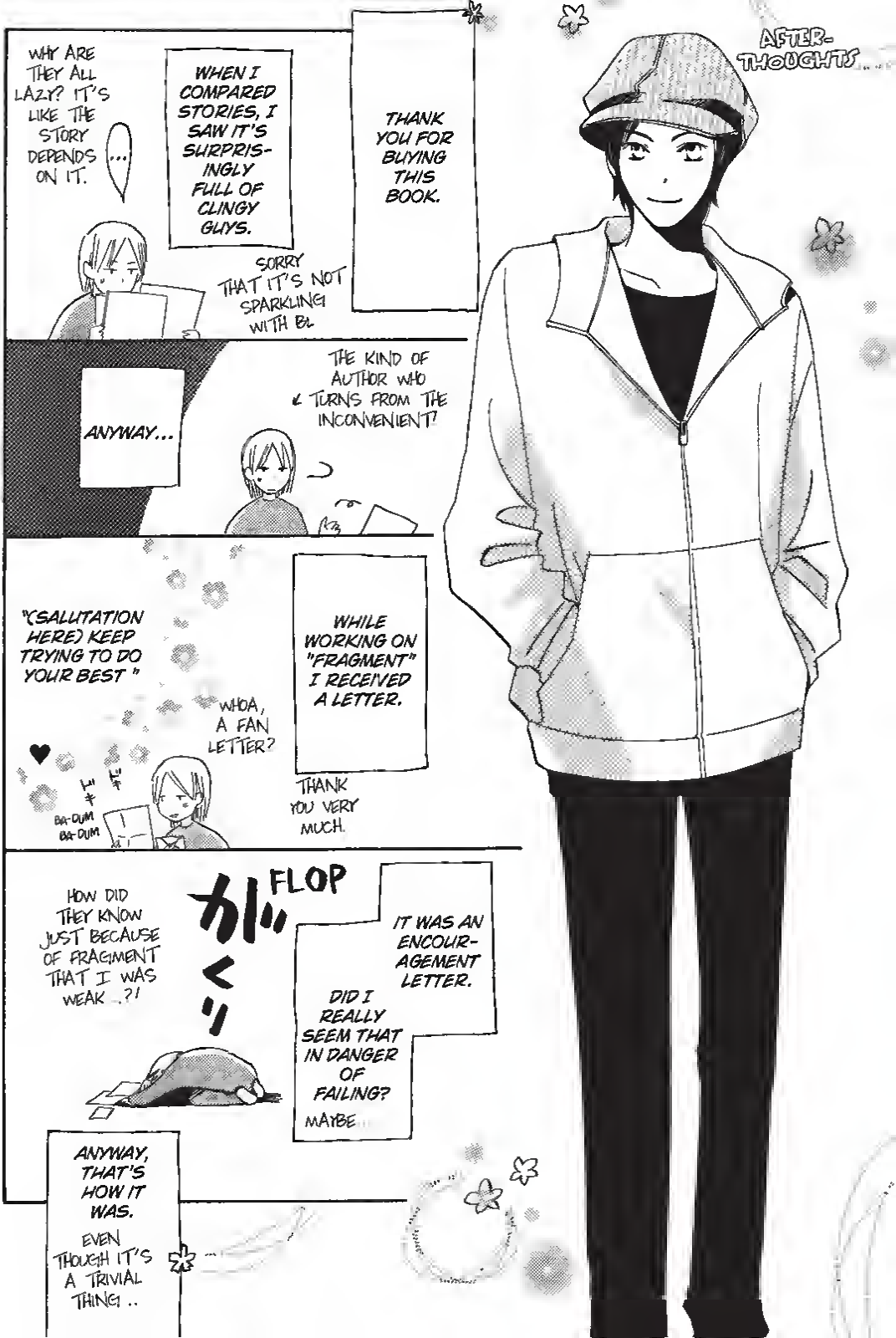
THAT WHICH IS STILL HERE ◎ END

HM?
APRIL OF LAST YEAR.
SMILE SMILE
CLENCH
FIST OF ENDURANCE
...
?!
HE'S FLOATING! HE'S FLOATING!
ARE WE IN THE SAME CLASS? I'M TAKAGI. NICE TO MEET YOU.
H-HELLO..
HOW CAN I SEE HIM SO CLEARLY?
WHAT A SMILE!

TAKAGI (TREE) AND KUMOI (CLOUD) AND SAIKAWA (RIVER) AND IWASAKI (ROCK)
THEY'RE ALL NATURAL!
THAT WHICH FALLS FROM HEAVEN
↓
RAIN OR SNOW FALL FROM THE SKY
↓
...UMBRELLA... THAT'S HOW THE CONCEPT ORIGINATED...
HUH?!
THAT'S WHERE OUR NAMES CAME FROM?!
GAH!
...
I LIKE UMBRELLAS.

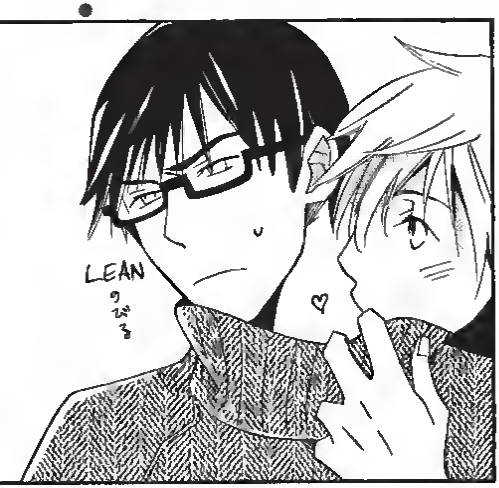
LIBRARIAN AND SLAVE
YOU WANT TO SEE MY BROTHER TOO, DON'T YOU SAIKAWA-SAN?
SMILE SMILE
PINCH
YOU CAN PINCH THAT SIDE.
STRETCH
OW! OW!
WILL I BE able TO SEE HIM IF I DO?
YOU WON'T. PLEASE STOP.
WIGGLE WIGGLE
WHAT?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO, BUT WHEN I WANT TO SEE HIM I FEEL LIKE PINCHING KUMOI.
HA HA HA...
THE HELL?
THEY MAKE NO SENSE...
SORRY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THESE TWO. I THINK "LIBRARIAN'S SLAVE" HAS A NICE RING TO IT. HA HA HA!


AFTER-THOUGHTS...
THANK YOU FOR BUYING THIS BOOK.
WHEN I COMPARED STORIES, I SAW IT'S SURPRISINGLY FULL OF CLINGY GUYS.
WHY ARE THEY ALL LAZY? IT'S LIKE THE STORY DEPENDS ON IT.
...
SORRY THAT IT'S NOT SPARKLING WITH BL
ANYWAY...
THE KIND OF AUTHOR WHO TURNS FROM THE INCONVENIENT?
WHILE WORKING ON "FRAGMENT" I RECEIVED A LETTER.
"(SALUTATION HERE) KEEP TRYING TO DO YOUR BEST"
WHOA, A FAN LETTER?
BA-DUM BA-DUM
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
FLOP
カクリ
HOW DID THEY KNOW JUST BECAUSE OF FRAGMENT THAT I WAS WEAK..?!
IT WAS AN ENCOURAGEMENT LETTER.
DID I REALLY SEEM THAT IN DANGER OF FAILING?
MAYBE...
ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TRIVIAL THING! ..

"FRAGMENT" WAS A DOUJIN

I HAD INTENDED TO REDO THE WHOLE THING, BUT AS I WAS LOUNGING AROUND I RAN OUT OF TIME, AND I ONLY MADE A FEW REVISIONS. BUT WITH ALL THE CUTTING AND PASTING I DID, IT ENDED UP TAKING LONGER ANYWAY. I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO CAN'T WHISTLE.



"ABSOLUTE CONDITION" WAS A SPECIAL FETISH FEATURE.

KUSAKA IS USUALLY QUIET, BUT HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET WHAT HE WANTS. OGATA LIVES WITH HIS FOSTER DAD (MANAGER OF A HOST RESTAURANT AND A MASTER OF HOMOSEXUALITY), AND THOUGH HE HASN'T COME OUT, HE DOESN'T HIDE IT EITHER, SO THERE ARE RUMORS ABOUT HIM. HE'S THE TYPE THAT LIKES TO SPOIL HIS LOVERS. . . HE AND KUSAKA DON'T REALLY MESH, DO THEY..? HE GETS THE WORST TREATMENT IN THIS BOOK. GOOD LUCK, OGATA!

"I LOVE STRAWBERRIES THE MOST, FOLLOWED BY MY DAD" FEATURES A LAZY SEME.

IN THIS CASE, I WAS AWARE THAT THE STORY DEPENDED ON LAZINESS, BUT WHEN I HEARD "LAZY SEME" IN MY HEAD ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS "LAZY PERSON." I WASN'T ABLE TO PULL MUCH OUT OF IT. OR WAS I THE ONE LACKING? THIS IS MY FIRST TIME PURPOSEFULLY WRITING A "LAZY SEME." WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT THE TIMES BEFORE THIS IT WAS UNCONSCIOUS. IT'S TOO LATE. THE UNDERLYING THEME WAS "FIRST TIME DOING IT OUTDOORS.."

"I CAN'T REMEMBER NOW." ANOTHER SPECIAL LAZY ONE.

BE CAREFUL, KATSUHIRO.

"SIRENS."

HAVING LOST HIS PARENTS AT A YOUNG AGE, SHINJI WAS RAISED BY HIS GRANDMOTHER AND HIS MUCH OLDER BROTHER WHEN HIS GRANDMOTHER DIED (LEAVING ONLY HIS OLDER BROTHER) HE INHERITED HER OLD HOUSE, AND LIVED THERE EVER SINCE ASATO CAME ALONG. ASATO'S WORLD REVOLVED AROUND SHINJI, THEN AND NOW. UNTIL DEATH SHINJI ISN'T GOING TO COLLEGE AT THE MOMENT. HE'S ON HIATUS. I HOPE I CAN FORGIVE MYSELF FOR THIS ONE.

"FEVER MARK"

MASAKI'S REAL NAME IS TOMOHISA SHINZAKI.

"THAT WHICH FALLS FROM HEAVEN"

THE UNDERLYING THEME WAS "PRECISE GREETINGS" HA HA IN THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT IT WAS GOING TO BE FROM KUMOI'S POINT OF VIEW, AND THE BROTHER WOULD SHOW UP OFTEN, BUT IN THE END IT BECAME FROM TAKAGI'S POINT OF VIEW, WHICH WAS EASIER TO DRAW.

"THAT WHICH IS STILL HERE."

BECAUSE I LIKED THE BROTHER, I LET MYSELF USE HIM AGAIN. I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED LIBRARIANS. WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WANTED TO BE EITHER A LIBRARIAN OR A POSTAL WORKER.

ON TOP OF THE STORY HAVING A SINGLE PATTERN, I ALSO USED TOO MANY DEAD PEOPLE. HORRIBLE. IF I DO ANOTHER, I WANT TO USE A DIFFERENT PATTERN. I'M SORRY ABOUT ALWAYS RUSHING TO THE DEADLINE, Y-SAN. IF THERE'S A "NEXT TIME," I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON ENOUGH NOT TO WORK WITH ME AGAIN...

STARTING WITH Y-SAN, I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THIS COMIC TO COME OUT. I AM VERY SORRY TO ALL MY FRIENDS WHO LISTENED TO ME COMPLAIN. SATO-CHAN AND MIKI-CHAN, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

AND TO YOU, MY READERS! THANK YOU.

I HOPE YOU LIKED IT. IF YOU CAN, PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS. EVEN ENCOURAGEMENT LETTERS ARE FINE. HA HA...

I HOPE WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET AGAIN!

MARCH 2007, AKI SENDO

GOOD LUCK, OGATA!
HE CAME OUT TO HIS FRIENDS!
WE'RE GOING OUT NOW.
UGH!!
I THOUGHT SO...
FOR NOW, ANYWAY.
YOU KNEW? ABOUT HIS MOLE FETISH?
YOUR MOLE.
I'M SURE KUSAKA REALLY LIKES...
ACTUALLY, ALL HIS EX-GIRLFRIENDS...
AHA, THERE IT IS.
SHAKE
BUT I AM AWAKE...
WE TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER KUSAKA! WAKE UP!
I WAS JOKING, BUT STILL!
DOES HE GIVE UP EASILY?
...THEY DIDN'T LAST LONG, HUH?
THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW HE'D GO FOR GUYS, TOO.
WELL, THERE'S THE LINE-UP
I WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL LAST THIS TIME--
I DON'T LIKE YOU...
EX 1: COLLEGE STUDENT
DURATION: 1 MONTH
INTERESTS: MUSIC, GOING TO MOVIES, SHOPPING
EX 2. UNDERCLASSMAN
DURATION: 3 MONTHS
INTERESTS: READING, MAKING SNACKS
EX 3: CLASSMATE
DURATION: 1 MONTH
INTERESTS: OUTDOOR SPORTS

GOOD LUCK AGAIN, OGATA!

IN THE SCRIPT THEY WERE JUST A AND B, BUT NOW I'VE NAMED THEM! THEY'RE EIDA-KUN (LOWER) AND BIZEN-KUN (UPPER) YUP, THAT'S IT. HA HA HA
I HATE HIM
THAT'S IT?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
HUH? A MOLE ON HIS NECK?
JUST BREAK UP, ALREADY!
DON'T ASK HIM! SERIOUSLY..
SO, WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
OH?
NO! THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON I LIKE HIM!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SAY IT, BUT...
LISTEN, KUSAKA...
WELL..
...THERE ARE A LOT REASONS...
I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT!!
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
HOW SAD...
SIGH
AND YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ANSWER!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO ASK!
LIKE THE LITTLE MOLE ON HIS BACK, AND THE ONE ON HIS THIGH, AND BY HIS BELLY BUTTON...
MMPH!
THE END